

THE PINK

Saturday, May 28, 2016

65p

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Daily Echo

HAVING A BLAST

YOUR GUIDE TO HAMPSHIRE'S BLAST T20 INSIDE



James Ward-Prowse is one of three Saints playing for the England U21s.

SAINTS TRIO ON BRINK OF ENGLAND GLORY

SAINTS trio James Ward-Prowse, Matt Targett and Jack Stephens stand on the brink of history after reaching the final of the Toulon Tournament with England Under-21s.

The Young Lions face France in the final tomorrow in Avignon, where they are aiming to take their first triumph at the annual competition in 22 years.

The team's captain Ward-Prowse sat out of their latest victory as they confirmed a clean sweep of wins in Group B.

Central defender Jack Stephens, who has spent the last season on loan and Middlesbrough and Coventry City, played the

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ENGLAND 2 AUSTRALIA 1

Rash challenge for Euro bow as debut ace shines

MARCUS Rashford's extraordinary rise shows no sign of abating, with the teenager's volley on his England debut helping to down Australia and boost his Euro 2016 chances.

There are fairytale ascents and then there is an 18-year-old breaking into the first team at Manchester United, winning the FA Cup and becoming the Three Lions' youngest goalscorer in the space of 92 days.

Rashford has flourished since being thrust into the spotlight in February and opened his England account in style, capitalising on Daniel Sturridge's absence as Roy Hodgson's side – which included Saints' Fraser Forster and Ryan Bertrand – defeated Australia 2-1 in Sunderland.

A calf strain kept the oft-injured Sturridge out at the Stadium of Light and his teenage replacement shone on his international audition, volleying home impressively after just two minutes and 18 seconds.

The Liverpool striker's latest setback and Rashford's man-of-the-match display gives Hodgson a selection headache ahead of whittling his squad down to 23 on Tuesday, but there is no doubt about Wayne Rooney's place in France.

Brought off the bench at half-time, England's all-time top scorer gleefully collected a pass from Raheem Sterling and rifled into the top corner.

More hairy moments at the back shows there still remains fine-tuning, though, epitomised by substitute Eric Dier directing Milos Degenek's cross past his own goalkeeper following a potential injury to stand-in captain Chris Smalling.

The win was harder than had been expected against the side ranked 50th in the world as Hodgson tried different combinations in England's second home match away from Wembley since 2007.

John Stones, Jack Wilshere and Sterling were the only survivors from Sunday's 2-1 win against Turkey in Manchester, with Rashford thrown in from the outset after Sturridge failed to recover from a calf strain.

Just like at United, he capitalised on his fortune in style, taking a mere 138 seconds to net his maiden international goal.

Having played the ball to Sterling and then seen the resulting cross deflect off Bailey Wright, Rashford showed no little skill and composure to volley the ball into the ground and past Mat Ryan.



Marcus Rashford celebrates after scoring his goal. Left, Saints' Ryan Bertrand is tackled by Australia's Aaron Mooy.

England to pull further ahead in the 55th minute.

Henderson's pass ran through to Sterling on the left and the Manchester City man raced forwards, drawing in Wright and gifting Rooney acres of space. England's all-time top scorer received the pass and rifled home.

The 30-year-old just failed to connect with a cross from Rashford – the youngster's final action before being withdrawn to a standing ovation.

Nathaniel Clyne tried his luck from the edge of the box and James Milner whipped a strike wide of the far post, although the back was still shaky.

Smalling went off holding his hamstring and defensive midfielder Dier was brought on.

Usually adept at centre-back, within two minutes of coming on he beat Fraser Forster as Tomi Juric's presence saw him turn home a Degenek cross.

That moment compounded existing fears about England's strength at the back, but they saw out the remainder of the match without much fuss as Newcastle's Andros Townsend tried to make an impact and Burnley goalkeeper Tom Heaton came on for a brief debut.

It was a magical start to the night but England were unable to follow it up, too often giving up possession and struggling to make a telling pass. When they did in the 15th minute, Rashford's heavy touch prevented him getting a shot away.

Stones did well to block Australia's own debutant Jamie Maclaren at the other end, before Smalling, captaining his country for the first time, raced across his path to head over his own goal.

The Socceroos were making England's defence look vulnerable, although the hosts upped the ante as

half-time approached. Ryan blocked a close-range Adam Lallana effort and thwarted Sterling after a lovely, clipped Wilshere pass before Australia's talented goalkeeper produced an acrobatic stop to deny Jordan Henderson, who was a ball boy when England last played at the Stadium of Light in 2003.

England moved the ball quicker after half-time but they still looked shaky, with a mix-up between Stones and Smalling leading to some anxious moments.

Tom Rogic struck over as the visitors looked to draw parity, only for

Under-21 stars on the brink

From front page

full game as Gareth Southgate's side defeated Japan Under-23s 1-0 in their final group match.

Matt Targett, the left back, also started the match, but was substituted at half time.

That was England's FOURTH victory in a row after they smashed through earlier games to reach the final without dropping any points and scoring 13 times along the way.

After a 1-0 victory over Portugal in their opening match, Ward-Prowse was on target from the spot as the in-form side demolished Guinea 7-1.

That rampant win was followed by a 4-0 thrashing of Paraguay, meaning all Southgate's side needed from the Japan match was a point.

However, Chelsea's Lewis Baker dispatched from the penalty spot on 14 minutes to extend their winning run and score his third goal of the tournament.

The spot kick was won by former Southampton Tyro League player John Swift, now of Chelsea, after he was barged over in the area by Hiromu Mitsuhashi.

It will now be England's task to defeat France, the home nation, in the final.

The French are also on a four-game winning run. Les Bleus defeated Mexico 3-1 in their opening game before a 1-0 win over Bulgaria and a 2-1 triumph against Mali.

They then went head-to-head with the Czech Republic for a place in the final, which they duly won 2-0.

Back in 1994, when England last won the Toulon, two former Saints played a big role in taking the crown.

Chris Makin, who played for Oldham Athletic at the time, finished his professional career at St Mary's in 2008 and was part of that triumphant England squad in '94.

Jamie Redknapp is the other ex-Saint familiar name to have played in that last Toulon victory.

The son of Harry, Jamie joined Saints in 2004/05 to try and help the club and his dad out of a relegation scrap at St Mary's. It didn't turn out well as the midfielder went down with the club that same year.

Back in the day, though, when Redknapp was a spritely 20-year-old and Makin was 21, they both started the final against Portugal Under-21s, which saw Trevor Sinclair and Bruce Dyer score in a 2-0 win.

The current class are now aiming to follow in their footsteps. Ward-Prowse was voted one of the best three players in the 2015 Toulon Tournament, and his goal against Brazil was voted the Goal of the Tournament 12 months ago.

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Northern Ireland enjoy triumphant Euros warm up



Saints' Steven Davis.

MICHAEL O'Neill was pleased to see Northern Ireland enjoy the 'bon voyage' for once as they warmed up for Euro 2016 with a 3-0 victory over Belarus.

Four years ago, in O'Neill's second game in charge, his side were thumped 6-0 by a Holland team bound for Euro 2012 in Poland and Ukraine as Northern Ireland provided the pre-tournament opposition.

Yet ahead of next month's competition, when they face both of the 2012 hosts in their group, France-bound Northern Ireland – which included Saints' Steven Davis – extended their unbeaten streak to 11 games with goals from strikers Kyle Lafferty, Conor Washington

and substitute Will Grigg.

There was understandably a party atmosphere at Windsor Park, which only intensified when fan favourite Grigg scored to spark more 'Will Grigg's on Fire' chants, and the team returned to the pitch after the final whistle to fireworks, confetti and a video montage as Belfast gave a fitting farewell to the first Northern Irish team to reach a major international tournament in 30 years.

"As I said to the players before the game, we have a responsibility to put on a performance. We're normally the warm-up act for countries going to the finals so it's nice to be in the position we're in and for the players to realise that and

grasp that opportunity they had. I think they did that," said O'Neill.

As far as tournament warm-ups go, this was a perfect night for Northern Ireland, who also managed to avoid both injuries and a possible suspension ahead of Saturday, when O'Neill will announce his final 23-man squad for the Euros.

"It was good to see them all looking really comfortable playing in a (back) three, game-by-game they're more accustomed to it, believe in it," O'Neill said.

"It was perfect for the two lads to score in the first half. Conor again getting another goal then for Will because that's his first international goal."

Long impresses O'Neill with goal against Netherlands

'He can be Euro star'

REPUBLIC of Ireland boss Martin O'Neill has backed Saints striker Shane Long to make a major impact at Euro 2016 after firing his side ahead in their 1-1 draw with the Netherlands.

The 29-year-old, who enjoyed a fine finish to the domestic season with Southampton, struck after half an hour at the Aviva Stadium to claim his 16th senior international goal.

Long needed treatment after reopening a wound to his knee and was withdrawn with 23 minutes remaining, and although he may not feature against Belarus on Tuesday evening, O'Neill is confident he can star in France.

The manager said: "I don't see why not. He's playing with great confidence and he's ready to go.

"That little cut, which was in an awkward position on his knee, I think he reopened it again tonight and I didn't think there was any point in risking him any further, but he's going to be okay.

"I don't know whether he will participate in the game on Tuesday or not, but I think he has got the capability to make an impression."

Cherries midfielder Harry Arter did his chances of making the 23 little harm on Friday evening when he got 82 minutes under his belt.

The 26-year-old said: "I feel fortunate and lucky enough to be in this position. I don't see it as pressure, I see it as a challenge. I was pleased to get the nod.

"We're professional footballers – if you feel like you're under pressure, then you're not going to give it your all. This is my job to perform and give it my best, and that's what I tried to do.

"I was happy with how I did. I gave it my best, 110 per cent, and that's all you can do."



Shane Long celebrates his goal against the Netherlands last night.

Arter made his first appearance for Ireland in a 0-0 draw with England in June last year, but had to wait until Friday to get another taste of the action with injuries having limited him to 22 appearances for his club last season.

However, he showed no sign of rustiness to give O'Neill something

to think about as he assesses the relative merits of Arter, Darron Gibson, Stephen Quinn, David Meyler and Eunan O'Kane in a highly competitive central midfield area in which Glenn Whelan, James McCarthy and Jeff Hendrick are near-certainties to make the plane.

He said: "I've worked hard for the

past two months to try and get my body as good as it can get and (on Friday night) I was pleased out there."

O'Neill will announce his squad after the Belarus game in Cork just hours before UEFA's deadline, and he will do so having seen his side turn in a competitive display against the Dutch.

Bale set to shine in Euro 2016

IAN Rush believes Gareth Bale will join the celebrated company of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by shining for Wales at Euro 2016.

Barcelona forward Messi and Bale's Real Madrid team-mate Ronaldo have won the last eight FIFA Ballon d'Or awards between them, but Rush feels his fellow Welshman is fast closing the gap on the pair.

Former Saint Bale is currently preparing for Real Madrid's Champions League final with Atletico Madrid in Milan on Saturday night on the back of a successful third season in Spain.

He has scored 19 goals in 23 Primera Division games, has a dozen assists to his name, and has begun to rival Ronaldo's importance to Real in recent months.

The 26-year-old, who scored the decisive goal in the 4-1 final victory over Atletico two years ago, would become the youngest British player to win the Champions League twice should Real triumph at the San Siro.

"He's scoring goals for fun and will feel he can score from anywhere," former Wales striker Rush told Press Association Sport.

"Becoming the best doesn't happen overnight, but to be up with the likes of Messi and Ronaldo is having a good Euros or a good World Cup.

"You can do it for your club, but if you do it for your country it's even better. I'm sure he can do that."

Bale has regularly been linked with a return to English football – and most prominently Manchester United – since leaving Tottenham in 2013 for a world record fee of £85.3million.

But Rush feels there is no need for Bale to return with him being on top of his game and Real aiming to win an 11th European Cup.

"People talk about him coming back to the Premier League, but he's enjoying himself and playing for possibly the best team in Europe," said Rush.

"He's in the Champions League final again and playing for Real Madrid, so why would you want to come back?"

"He's getting a lot of experience, and playing in the Euros he will be even more experienced when he goes back to Real Madrid."



Gareth Bale.

Tottenham to play matches at Wembley

TOTTENHAM have reached an agreement with the Football Association to play their European fixtures at Wembley next season.

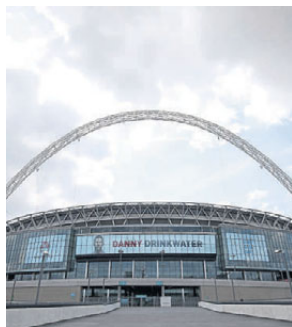
The 2016-17 campaign will be Spurs' last at White Hart Lane as work has already begun on their new £400million stadium, meaning the London club will need a temporary home.

The FA has also given Tottenham the option to hire the national stadium for the entire 2017-18 season.

Chairman Daniel Levy indicated Tottenham would take up the season-long option, with their new 61,000-capacity stadium scheduled to be ready for the start of the 2018-19 season.

He said: "We are delighted that we have been able to reach this agreement.

"Given the current reduction in capacity at White Hart Lane for next season and the ticketing requirements for Champions League, playing at Wembley will mean that we



Wembley Stadium.

can continue to accommodate all of our existing season ticket holders.

"Our season ticket waiting list is over 50,000 so this now also offers us a great opportunity to provide more of our supporters with a chance to see the team play live during our Champions League campaign."

FA chief executive Martin Glenn said: "Having Tottenham at Wembley for big European nights next season is a welcome opportunity for us to further the stadium's position as a world-class venue.

"As well as helping the club and its fans, it will benefit London and English football in general with our commitment to reinvesting all profits back into the game.

"The increased revenue will particularly help us meet our targets for improving coaching and grassroots facilities and growing participation. We were already on a strong financial footing, which allowed us to reinvest £117m back into the game at all levels last season."

Record-breaking

DAILY Echo sports reporter Peter Howard gives his verdict on Saints' record-breaking 2015/16 Premier League season.

How much did Saints exceed your pre-season expectations?

Sometimes it just feels like the time will come when all these departures and turbulent summers will catch up with Saints.

But it's almost becoming the norm that Ronald Koeman is able push Saints on despite the turnover of players.

So, with that in mind, this season has exceeded expectation, but it doesn't surprise me in the slightest what's been achieved.

Many will remember this season for Leicester, but Saints deserve so much credit for what they've managed to achieve despite losing Morgan Schneiderlin, Nathaniel Clyne and failing to sign Toby Alderweireld last summer.

Another best-ever points tally and highest finish in the Premier League era? Can't sniff at that. Expectations exceeded.

Which Saints player impressed you the most?

Shane Long has been absolutely superb. It's easy to forget that the Irish striker started the season on the periphery of the Saints team, ducking and diving for sub appearances or playing on the wing. He finished the campaign as a player that Saints are not the same without. Long occasionally has you ripping out your hair in frustration, with a tendency to fluff a fair few chances. But his never-say-die attitude and unbelievable work-rate means he's a player that mentally drives Saints on no matter what the situation. He'll run for you if you're losing 4-0 or winning 1-0 and up against it.

And it's not only his attitude but his style of play that benefits Saints.

His pace stretches defences and he has this extraordinary leap, which has seen him score numerous headed goals this term and means that you don't necessarily have to deploy a big-man forward.

At one time he was considered over-priced at £12m, but the way he's developed his game means he looks almost a bargain at the price that saw him move from Hull in 2014.

He has had his best-ever Premier League season - netting 10 goals - and has 13 in all competitions.

Which ones failed to live up to the hype?

Attacking midfielder. Tick. Seemingly bucket loads of potential. Tick.

Loads of clubs chasing his signature. Tick.

Spanish international. Tick.



Shane Long - superb after starting the season on the periphery of the team.



Juanmi - Saints' first signing of the summer failed to live up to expectations.

Fans excited. Tick.

Juanmi looked like he'd ticked all the boxes as he arrived at St Mary's, but he'll likely depart this summer without anyone noticing, or caring.

He was Saints' first signing of last summer and, rightly, there was excitement. It's not every day a club gets to sign a Spanish international.

It was obvious pretty soon, though, that Juanmi was not going to cut-it in the Premier League.

Had Saints progressed in the Europa League, perhaps he'd have got more game-time and made some kind of impact.

He actually produced a couple of decent moments.

But, really, he wilted, sitting on the bench for much of the season before not even being included in the squad at all.

List your favourite three Saints league games of the season and why.

Chelsea 1-3 Saints: It was high time that Chelsea got their title defence back on track and, when Willian scored from a free-kick, it felt perhaps they were about to re-emerge from an awful start and

begin to play some decent football.

But no.

Saints dismantled them in sensational fashion. Graziano Pelle chested down for Steven Davis to score a quality half volley. Sadio Mane then robbed John Terry of the ball for the lead before Pelle polished off a brilliant break.

Saints 4-0 Arsenal: Cuco Martina's swerving goal was enough to make this game spectacular, but smashing four past eventual runners-up Arsenal to end a glum run of form, made this one of the most memorable of the season.

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season for Saints



Cuco Martina celebrates his stunner against Arsenal

Saints 3-2 Liverpool: Comeback win over Liverpool? Ecstasy for Saints fans.

What was the worst Saints game you covered this season and why?

Norwich 1-0 Saints: The football was terrible. There was suddenly talk of relegation. Sadio Mane was dropped for turning up late.

The season looked to be doomed (might be an exaggeration) at this point and then Victor Wanyama got sent off and Norwich scored through Alex Tettey three minutes later to win it.

Things looked decidedly bad. At that point you just want get home and forget all about a rubbish day at the office, but we couldn't even do that as the Echo car broke down.

We were stranded the wrong side of Cambridge. Two AA tows, and about nine hours later, we got back to Southampton. At 3am. Unforgettable day for all the wrong reasons.

List your three best Saints league goals of the season.

Graziano Pelle – Chelsea A 3-1
Cuco Martina – Arsenal H 4-0
Charlie Austin – Manchester United A 1-0

What was the best opposition goal?

Saints 4-1 Crystal Palace: Former Saints man Jason Puncheon's absolute rocket last Sunday. Didn't mean anything to Palace, but it was a stunning goal.

Who was your overall Saints player of the season and why?

Players often find it difficult to adapt to the Premier League in their first season, but Virgil van Dijk is not one of them.

He's been absolutely class. Not only a ball-playing central defender, van Dijk wins pretty much everything in the air and has a rifle of shot on him. And he's only 24.

For me, he's up there with Leicester's N'Golo Kante for the Premier League's signing of the season.

Can Ronald Koeman realistically take Saints higher next season?

Yes, but it depends. Koeman wants the backing of

the board with some decent money for players and a clear path for the club to move forward on.

Provide him with that, then he might well sign a new contract and build another excellent team for the new season.

It could be difficult to take Saints higher in the league because that would ultimately mean a Champions League finish, but there should be obvious progression.

Potentially dealing with the group stages of the Europa League poses a new challenge, which, if they can accompany with decent league form, would be just as satisfying as finishing higher up in the Premier League.

The league is likely to be far tougher next term with the likes of Chelsea, Manchester United and Manchester City ready to go spending in the summer.

And Liverpool will be stronger once Jurgen Klopp gets his mitts on some transfer funds and shapes his side further in his mould and, surely, Everton will hope to be battling in the top-six next season.

But, again, let Koeman do what he needs to do and Saints will be ready to compete up there again.

What areas of the team do you think Koeman needs to strengthen in order to take them higher?

If you look at the starting eleven alone, then a new right-back is the only addition that is necessary.

Cedric Soares hasn't been good enough and Koeman has indicated his dissatisfaction by dropping him for Cuco Martina, who is solid but really only a back-up.

It will be very tough to find, but you'd ideally dig out a hidden gem, in the ilk of Ryan Bertrand.

To look at the squad as a whole, Saints would ideally add another attacking midfielder, and a centre-back so that Koeman has the numbers to play the five-at-the-back system that he deployed on occasions this term.

Of course, keeping this squad together is important, as fewer departures as possible would be beneficial after the turbulence of the past few years.

Man Utd look to the future

JOSE Mourinho wants to concentrate on the future as he looks to bring the good times back to Manchester United after being confirmed as the new manager at Old Trafford.

The Portuguese wants everyone associated with the club to forget the three-year period under David Moyes and Louis van Gaal and move forward as he looks to replicate the club's triumphant history.

"I think we can look at our club now in two perspectives," he told the club's in-house television station MUTV. "One perspective is the past three years and another perspective is the club history."

"I think I prefer to forget the past three years, I prefer to focus on the giant club I have in my hands now. I think what the fans are expecting me to say is that I want to win."

Van Gaal's turbulent two-year reign was brought to an end just days after winning the FA Cup.

Wembley glory was unable to mask poor Barclays Premier League performances in terms of style and substance, with United quickly following up their long-reported interest in the former Chelsea boss.

Talks started on Tuesday but it took until Friday for the terms of the contract to be ironed out and United to announce the three-year deal, with an option for the 53-year-old to stay at the club until at least 2020.

Mourinho's excitement to be taking over a club with a "mystique and a romance" is clear, as is his desire to revive United's ailing fortunes.

Turgid, prosaic football led to the club's worst scoring return in the league for 26 years and saw Van Gaal's side miss out on Champions League qualification to neighbours Manchester City on goal difference.

"You know, I think I know what they can give me," Mourinho said of United's fanbase. "I think also they know what I can give them."



Jose Mourinho.

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Jones ready to unleash 'streetfighter'

EDDIE Jones is ready to unleash a "streetfighter" and one of his bowling balls when England face Wales on Sunday, while a third forward of rich promise has been ordered to bloody himself for the cause.

The match will also herald a 49th England cap for Southampton's Mike Brown.

New Zealand-born debutant Teimana Harrison has been picked at blindside flanker in place of Chris Robshaw, who misses the Twickenham Test in order to attend his brother's wedding, prop Ellis Genge could win his first cap off the bench and Jack Clifford is given his maiden start at number eight.

All three will head to Australia for next month's three-Test series motivated by a promise from Jones that if they excel against Wales, more caps await Down Under.

"Teimana is a kid from a poor family in Rotorua, New Zealand. He came to England with nothing and got a run in the academy at Northampton



Mike Brown during an indoor training session this week.

where he was playing for £6,000 a year," head coach Jones said.

"He's a streetfighter. Rugby is the most physical game in the world and you need guys who are prepared to put their bodies on the line and be physically aggressive.

"Harrison has done well.

"And the two young props Genge and Kyle Sinckler...I love them! They're going to be good those two boys.

"They're like two bowling balls - they're going to bowl some people over in the next five to six years.

"They're hungry and they want to be part of it."

Clifford has won all five of his previous caps as a replacement during the RBS 6 Nations and profits from Billy Vunipola's involvement in the Aviva Premiership final with Saracens.

"Jack has got everything in place.

"He's got athletic ability and pretty reasonable rugby sense," Jones said.

"He's got it all."

Watson recalls scout

BACK in 2008/09, ex-Saints striker Gordon Watson watched games in the Northern Premier League Division 1 (South).

In front of crowds of barely three figures, he was on scouting missions for his employers, Leicester City, writes **SIMON CARTER**.

He watched Stocksbridge Park Steels, and in particular the striker leading the line for them... Jamie Vardy.

In the eighth tier of English football - at the same level with AFC Totton and Winchester City have been operating this term - Watson was watching the man who would go on to become the Football Writers' Player of the Year for the 2015/16 season.

He was watching the man who would end up as top scorer for the most unlikely English football league champions of all time.

For the most unlikely winners of any major European football league, again of all time.

Much has been made of Leicester's sensational title win.

Lest we forget, as recently as 2013/14 they were playing in the Championship.

No team has gone from the second tier to English title winners as quick since Nottingham Forest in the late 1970s.

It took Blackburn Rovers three years back in the 1990s. Promoted from the second tier in 1991/92, they won their sole Premier League title in 1994/95.

Rovers were bankrolled by Sir Jack Walker's millions, though.

At the time, they were known as 'moneybags' Rovers.

Leicester have not been the big spenders this season, in fact far from it.

Ironically

Even Bournemouth's squad cost more than the 2015/16 Premier League title winners' squad.

Lest we also forget, Leicester were playing in the third division, in League 1, when Watson was watching Vardy in 2008/09.

Relegated on the final day of the 2007/08 Championship season - the Foxes went down as a result of Nigel Pearson's Saints beating Sheffield United on an emotional day at St Mary's - Leicester returned to the second tier at the first time of asking.

Ironically, they went up with Pearson as their manager at the same time Saints - who had unceremoniously dumped Pearson in favour of Jan Poortvliet - were relegated to League 1.

Watson was recruited by his good friend Pearson to be one of his backroom staff members at the East Midlands outfit in the summer of 2008.

He was to stay at the club for three years, and during his time at The King Power Stadium he also scouted the likes of Marc Albrighton and Danny Drinkwater.



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy with the Premier League silverware



Leicester City celebrate a sensational Premier League title triumph

Both of those players, like Vardy, were to eventually sign for the Foxes and become integral members of the most amazing football story of modern times.

Hell, of ANY time!

"Everything has fallen right for Leicester this season," Watson said this week.

"They have not had many injuries, they have managed to keep the spine of the team the same most weeks.

"Some of the big clubs are in a transitional period, and they have

been able to take advantage.

"They have had the belief and the momentum.

"Full credit to them - it's an amazing story.

"What they have done is to give everyone else hope.

"If you have self belief, if you have momentum, if you believe in what you are doing, then anything is possible.

"Leicester have shown that.

"They have never given up in any minute of any game.

"Remember early in the season

when they were 2-0 down at home to Aston Villa?"

"They came back to win 3-2.

"They have only lost three games all season, and one of them was in the last minute at Arsenal.

"Against that, they have also scored a lot of late goals."

That much is true.

Saints fans will no doubt be able to recall last October's game at St Mary's.

Trailing 2-0 at the interval, Leicester dominated the second half and claimed a deserve point thanks to

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outing Foxes' stars



Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri with the Premier League silverware



Claudio Ranieri (left), Christian Fuchs (centre), Kasper Schmeichel and Riyad Mahrez with the trophy

Vardy's double – the equaliser coming in the last minute.

The Foxes also beat lowly Norwich 1-0 in February with an 89th minute winner from Leonardo Ulloa, and won 1-0 at White Hart Lane in January – and how big does THAT result look right now? – with an 83rd-minute Robert Huth goal.

Just recently, they drew at home to West Ham with a 90th minute penalty.

Watson, meanwhile, insists he should not take too much credit for Leicester's remarkable story.

"I had left by the time they signed

Vardy, Drinkwater and Allbrighton.

"But I had watched all of them and recommended the club keep monitoring them.

"I remember Vardy playing for Stocksbridge Park Steels. He then played for Halifax and Fleetwood before Nigel eventually signed him in 2012.

"He had been on the radar for a few years.

"When I saw him play for Stocksbridge you don't think 'this guy will play for England one day' but he was aggressive, he didn't give

up, he chased everything.

"Vardy had the Leicester DNA and that is why they pressed the button and took a gamble.

"The Leicester DNA is the same as the Nigel Pearson DNA – never say die, keep on going, never let up.

"The difference between Vardy last season and Vardy this season is that he's learnt to time his runs into the box.

"Now he arrives in the box with the ball in front of him. That wasn't happening last season.

"I remember watching Allbrighton play for Aston Villa reserves. He

had that energy, the Nigel Pearson DNA.

"When I watched Drinkwater play for Manchester United reserves, he was on the right wing.

"All I could do was say 'continue to monitor him' because he was being played out of position."

Vardy had just finished the 2011/12 season as Fleetwood Town's top scorer in their Conference title-winning season when he was signed by Pearson for £1 million.

Not many non-league players are sold for £1 million.

In fact, Jamie Vardy was the first and, so far, only one.

Clubs in the Premier League don't take gambles on non-league footballers these days – not even ones that cost as little as £1 million.

To be honest, not many clubs in the Championship take gambles on non-league footballers these days.

Full credit to Nigel Pearson, therefore, for doing just that.

Pearson might not be around at Leicester any more, but he deserves a vast amount of credit for Leicester's wonderful achievement.

Watson continued: "Jamie Vardy is different from any other Premier League striker.

"That's probably because he came from non-league football with a point to prove.

"Look at all those clubs spending £10 million or £20 million on a striker these days.

"Look at Liverpool spending £16 million on Mario Balotelli.

"Then look at what Jamie Vardy cost Leicester City.

"Jamie was a Sheffield Wednesday fan and he was released by Sheffield Wednesday.

"With our contacts in Sheffield (both Pearson and Watson had played for the Owls) we got to hear about Jamie.

"That is why we started to scout him a few years before Nigel signed him.

"Look at the continuity Leicester have had.

Second chance

"Ranieri has kept the same backroom staff that Nigel had.

"Steve Walsh, the head of recruitment, and Craig Shakespeare, the assistant, are still there. Nigel was the only one who left.

"Ranieri is known as the 'Tinker-man' but here he has not tinkered at all.

"He has kept the same players Nigel had, the same staff Nigel had, and the training regime is the same as Nigel had.

"Credit to Ranieri for that.

"Leicester's recruitment has been unbelievable – scary even.

"Southampton's has been very good in the last couple of years – there's hardly been a dud signing – but Leicester have been scary.

"That was another part of the Nigel Pearson DNA.

"He was always looking at players who weren't wanted by other clubs and giving them a second chance."

Ranieri bags LMA award for top year

CLAUDIO Ranieri has been rewarded for leading Leicester to their improbable Premier League triumph by being crowned the League Managers Association manager of the year.

The 64-year-old becomes only the second non-British manager to win the prestigious accolade, after Arsène Wenger, who won it in both 2002 and 2004.

Ranieri, who was also named Premier League manager of the year, had already picked up three manager of the month awards in the course of his side's remarkable campaign, and was named Italian manager of the year in his homeland last month.

He succeeds Eddie Howe, who took the overall award last year after leading Bournemouth into the Premier League, pipping Jose Mourinho, who had to settle for the top-flight title.

Ranieri's spectacular success in his first season with Leicester came despite widespread predictions he would struggle after replacing Nigel Pearson in the summer.

Brighton's Chris Hughton took the Sky Bet Championship award, a little over an hour after his side's 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday ended their promotion hopes with a 3-1 aggregate play-off loss.

The League One award went to



Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri with the title trophy

Wigan's Gary Caldwell, with Chris Wilder taking the League Two award after guiding Northampton to promotion. Wilder has since left Northampton for Sheffield United.

LMA Manager of the Year

- 1993 Dave Bassett (Sheffield United)
- 1994 Joe Kinnear (Wimbledon)
- 1995 Frank Clark (Nottingham Forest)
- 1996 Peter Reid (Sunderland)
- 1997 Danny Wilson (Barnsley)
- 1998 Dave Jones (Southampton)
- 1999 Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)
- 2000 Alan Curbishley (Charlton Athletic)
- 2001 George Burley (Ipswich Town)
- 2002 Arsène Wenger (Arsenal)
- 2003 David Moyes (Everton)
- 2004 Arsène Wenger (Arsenal)
- 2005 David Moyes (Everton)
- 2006 Steve Coppell (Reading)
- 2007 Steve Coppell (Reading)
- 2008 Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)
- 2009 David Moyes (Everton)
- 2010 Roy Hodgson (Fulham)
- 2011 Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)
- 2012 Alan Pardew (Newcastle United)
- 2013 Alex Ferguson (Manchester United)
- 2014 Brendan Rodgers (Liverpool)
- 2015 Eddie Howe (Bournemouth)
- 2016 Claudio Ranieri (Leicester City)

Non league FOOTBALL



Holmes takes elite league lessons into management

New Wimborne Town boss wants attractive style

THE good, the bad and the ugly – Matty Holmes has experienced most of the curved balls football has to offer.

From the highs of bursting on to the scene at Cherries, wowing crowds at West Ham and a renaissance at Charlton to the lows of being frozen out at Blackburn, the new Wimborne Town boss would not change much, writes **ANDY MITCHELL**.

As he takes his first steps in senior management, leaving behind a decade-long association with the Cherries Academy, Holmes now plans to use every peak and trough as a tool to craft a career in the dugout.

After 114 Football League appearances and eight goals during his time at Dean Court, Holmes helped West Ham back to the top flight and soon made his mark among England's elite.

No regrets

Premier League champions Blackburn came calling and paid £1.2million – a hefty fee in those days – for the protégé's services.

Two years and just nine league appearances later, it was clear the move had not worked but Holmes had no regrets.

"They had just won the league and it was my big move," he said.

"Being involved in Champions League football with the likes of Alan Shearer, Chris Sutton, Graeme Le Saux and David Batty was unbelievable.

"Even if you're not playing, you cannot buy those experiences. People look at the stats but it is about your whole career and you learn an awful lot whether you play or not, good and bad things.

"When I didn't play at Blackburn, very few people spoke to me. I'm not arrogant enough to say I should have been playing but I did learn about how managers could speak to you.

"At times in my career, that was something that wasn't nice.

"It's a hard part of management, explaining to players why they're not included so, hopefully, I can put an arm round players and give them reasons if they need to come out of the team.

Valuable information

"There were a lot of good things I took from Blackburn as well, being around top players and seeing their habits.

"I can tell my forwards what I saw from Alan Shearer. My lads might not be able to do things to that level but you can help them to progress by drip feeding valuable information.



Matty Holmes is the new manager of Wimborne Town

"Hopefully, I can get across those traits as well as my own style of play."

Having served Cherries for so long, working with the likes of Joe Roach and under the stewardship of Eddie Howe, it is unsurprising to hear Holmes's take on how the game should be played.

"I want to watch Wimborne play good football," he said. "If I see players who do not take responsibility or do not want the ball, why are they out there?"

"Everybody wants to see an attractive game and I want to enjoy watching them but at the same time, I am not stupid – I know non-league is tough, I have seen enough of it.

"Some matches might be messy or untidy but we have to be brave and affect the game by getting the ball down at the right times.

"That is what I want to try to bring to the table."

It is a brave approach, particularly in the muck and bullets of the semi-

pro game, but come what may, Holmes seems determined to do it his way.

"I have had some really nice messages wishing me well but I know there will be people out there saying 'he hasn't managed before'.

"Fair enough, I haven't – but where do you start? Where do you learn?"

"I might last a month, I might last two months, but one thing is for certain, I will put in the work. If I don't succeed, it will not be for the want of trying."

Duffy deal delights Eastleigh manager

EASTLEIGH have pulled off an impressive coup by signing versatile former Swansea City defender Richard Duffy on a two-year deal.

The 30-year-old played a major part for League One outfit Port Vale last season, playing 52 times in all competitions.

But he was available on a free with his contract due to expire next month, which Eastleigh have duly acted on.

Duffy, who has been capped 13 times by Wales, was subsequently snapped up the ambitious Silverlake Stadium contract.

Fellow Welshman, and Spitfires boss, Chris Todd was over the moon to capture one of his top targets as they eye promotion to the Football League next season.

"I'm absolutely delighted to capture one of my top targets this summer," he said.

"Richard is the calibre of player we need at our club. He is a winner and leader and will bring a wealth of experience to the squad for next season."

Duffy started his career at Swansea City before switching to Portsmouth in 2004.

During his time at Fratton Park he went out on loan to Burnley, Coventry City and back to his hometown club Swansea.

He eventually made a permanent switch to Millwall in 2009 before going on to make more than 100 appearances with Exeter City.

He signed for his last club, Port Vale, in 2012 and went on to play more than 130 games for them and helping them to promotion from League Two in 2012/13.

Duffy is Eastleigh's third close season signing, following on from David Pipe and Jake Howells.

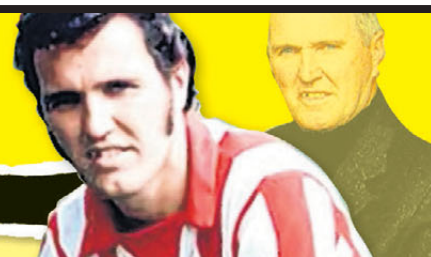
● Josh Payne and Will Evans, both released by Eastleigh, have signed for Crawley Town and Aldershot respectively.



Richard Duffy, right, in action for Exeter at Saints in 2010/11

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



How United treated LVG shows how far the club has sunk



Manchester United may have won the FA Cup, but the shambolic sacking of Louis van Gaal confirms the club has lost its class.

Sir Alex Ferguson took 27 years creating and protecting a legacy worthy of the Red Devils' rich history. Under the Scot, United's identity was built on loyalty, respect and tradition.

LVG was afforded none of that as news of his axing hit the headlines while he was lifting silverware at Wembley. Sir Alex's Manchester United had everything – attacking football, discipline, role models, a British backbone and a never-say-die attitude that proved the difference on countless occasions.

Fergie time was the joke, but the 'Fergie effect' was reality. Everyone knows the Class of 1992 and no one forgets the Class of 1999. But within three years of his retirement in 2013, those he left behind have destroyed every pillar of his blueprint, blinded by their desperate quest for success. A

jealous generation may feel it is high time that a set of fans raised on glory had some time in the doldrums but it is still a shame to see the once-great club floundering in such a manner.

United now fire managers on a routine basis and throw cash around like it's going out of fashion. Basically, they are just like every other Premier League club. The 1990s and 2000s saw Red Devils fans chastised for being 'glory hunters', or not being from Manchester.

But really it was just annoying that, when a United fan acted like their club was up on a pedestal, they actually had a point. It was not just the trophies or the fact their unit of homegrown stars fuelled the national team for a generation, it was also how in tune the club was with its roots and how their history still shaped their future.

Sir Bobby Charlton has the best seat in the house at Old Trafford, Sir Matt Busby has a statue outside and 'Fergie' himself has a stand and a road named after him at the ground. The great Scot may have left United

with one of his least exciting squads, but do not forget he still signed off with the league title.

He had shown the way and the path was clear – it was having faith in young British talent, it was sticking by your manager and it was a winning mentality that money cannot buy.

Above all, his players believed in everything the club stood for. Every kid wanted to play for Manchester United and those who did were forever proud to have done so. The Red Devils had a working recipe for long-term success and adulation. They did not need trophies to win people over, they already had the planet's biggest fan base. They did not need to buy the world's biggest stars, they created them.

Ferguson would never have spent £59.7 million on Angel di Maria and he would never have wanted David Moyes fired after less than a season. And now, if Jose Mourinho does replace Van Gaal, the transformation will be complete, world-renowned winners to a circus.

The Portuguese is a fantastic coach, nobody is arguing that, but from his eye-gouging antics at Real Madrid to alienating Chelsea's doctor last season, he courts controversy and revels in it.

LVG's style of football may have been found wanting, and by all accounts he struggled to keep hold of the dressing room, but as one of football's elder statesmen who has had success all over Europe, the 64-year-old behaved with dignity until the end.

He did not deserve to be hung out to dry for months on end or thrown to the media wolves with no support. Yet even as he lifted the FA Cup, the whispers of his departure drowned out the cheers.

To executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, the trophy may feel like the first step to back to the top. To the rest of us, the club we all had to watch winning title after title has gone.

United have fired managers and spent a fortune in a desperate bid to protect their winning reputation – the ultimate irony is they have destroyed it in the process.

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Carberry and Stokes vital in highest total

HIGHEST T20 TOTALS BY HAMPSHIRE

MICHAEL Carberry (90) and Mitchell Stokes (62) top scored when Hampshire rattled up their highest ever T20 total against Middlesex at The Rose Bowl a decade ago.

Michael Lumb's county-best 124 not out helped Hampshire to their second highest score, against Essex in 2009.

225-2 Hampshire v Middlesex – The Rose Bowl, 2006

219-2 Hampshire v Essex – The Rose Bowl, 2009

216-5 Hampshire v Somerset – Taunton, 2010

205-4 Hampshire v Sussex – Hove, 2008

205-5 Hampshire v Gloucestershire – The Rose Bowl, 2010

204-3 Hampshire v Sussex – Hove, 2015

202-3 Hampshire v Lancashire – The Ageas Bowl, 2013

201-2 Hampshire v Surrey – The Rose Bowl, 2010

199-5 Hampshire v Glamorgan – The Rose Bowl, 2010

199-5 Hampshire v Middlesex – Lord's, 2015

198-2 Hampshire v Middlesex – Northwood, 2014



Michael Carberry – 90 against Middlesex a decade ago

HIGHEST TOTALS AGAINST HAMPSHIRE

220-4 Somerset v Hampshire – Taunton, 2010

212-5 Essex v Hampshire – Chelmsford, 2015

210-6 Middlesex v Hampshire – The Rose Bowl, 2005

205-5 Sussex v Hampshire – Hove, 2007

204-6 Sussex v Hampshire – Hove, 2008

203-5 Sussex v Hampshire – The Ageas Bowl, 2012

201-4 Lancashire v Hampshire – The Ageas Bowl, 2013

200-8 Surrey v Hampshire – The Brit Oval, 2010

200-6 Sussex v Hampshire – Hove, 2015

198-5 Surrey v Hampshire – The Brit Oval, 2004

After Hampshire had posted what is their third highest T20 team total, Marcus Trescothick struck a 13-ball half-century en route to a 27-ball 78. Peter Trego hammered an unbeaten 77 off 44 balls as Somerset coasted to victory at Taunton.

Nothing changes for

FROM winning the World T20 final in front of a capacity crowd of 66,000 at Eden Gardens, to playing for Hampshire's 2nd XI on the Ageas Bowl's Nursery Ground.

Eight weeks after captaining West Indies to that dramatic last-over victory against England, Darren Sammy's Hampshire career began in more genteel surroundings, against Sussex's 2nd XI on Thursday, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

It has been a blissful two months for the all-rounder since that remarkable night in Kolkata.

"Life has been good but I wouldn't say life has changed," said Sammy, a proud St Lucian and the island's first international cricketer.

"I've been home, unlike a few of my teammates who've not had that chance. I've enjoyed the cup, St Lucia has enjoyed the cup.

"I took it round the island and did some motivational talks with kids.

"Not every player gets to hold a World Cup so that's what we did. I wish I could have taken it all over the Caribbean!"

For Sammy, it will be hard to surpass what he achieved on April 3, when West Indies became the first country to win the World T20 a second time.

"I still go back to that day we created history in Eden Gardens and Carlos Brathwaite's four sixes in the last over," continued Sammy. "Whatever mood I'm in, it brings a calm and a smile to my face and the soul."

Sammy continues to smile as he recalls the sight that greeted him when he arrived at the Ageas Bowl on Tuesday.

"The first ball I saw, Tino Best got a pair," he laughs.

Sammy is looking forward to playing alongside friends like Best, his former Windies and St Lucia Zouks teammate, and Shahid Afridi when he makes his debut against Kent at The Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

All three are staying in the Ageas Bowl's Hilton Hotel. "It's a wonderful place, quite unique. It's brilliant to be able to watch the cricket from the balcony."

Hampshire's home has certainly changed since Sammy made the first of his two West Indies debuts at West End in 2004. "We got the toss in against New Zealand [in July 2004], got on the field then it pissed down!"

"Later that same year, in the Champions Trophy against Bangladesh, I got another opportunity.

"This time it didn't rain and we ended up winning the Champions Trophy that year under Brian Lara."

Sammy is preparing for the longest of his three county stints after brief spells with Glamorgan (six matches) and Nottinghamshire (four matches) in the last two seasons.

"I'm looking forward to having an impact on and off the field and



winning some big games for Hampshire," continued the 32 year-old, who scored a 14-ball 28 and took a tidy 1-28 in a losing cause against Hampshire in his final game for Glamorgan, at The Swalec Stadium two years ago.

He also got to know James Vince and Liam Dawson at the World T20. "I already know a few of the boys," he said. "I'm at the right place, I

don't want to go anywhere else.

"It's about performing and also helping from a leadership point of view."

Sean Ervine, Hampshire's new limited-overs captain, will certainly benefit from having Sammy and Afridi, who captained Pakistan at the World T20, in his team.

Sammy did not play in Hampshire's first game against Mid-

dlesex at Uxbridge on Friday night.

Ryan McLaren played instead so he could still be registered for the start of the Specsavers County Championship match against the same opposition at Merchant Taylors' School tomorrow.

So Sammy's first games will be Kent's visit on Thursday and his return to Cardiff the following night.

He is fully rested and recharged

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r World T20 winner



Darren Sammy celebrates with the T20 World Cup in India. Left - Sammy pictured with Shahid Afridi and local schoolchildren at Emsworth earlier this week.



after having no takers at this year's Indian Premier League auction, but he has the experience of playing at the previous three editions of the IPL.

Sammy is the archetypal modern day player, a T20 freelancer with vast experience of the shortest format.

He has also played at the Big Bash (Hobart Hurricanes) and the Carib-

bean T20 (St Lucia Zouks) and was at the Bangladesh Premier League and the Pakistan Super League (for Peshawar Zalmi under Afridi's captaincy) for the first time in the build up to the World T20. So how does England's much-maligned domestic competition compare?

"England is different, the only place where T20's been played for so long," he said. "The level has al-

ways been of a high standard so it was no surprise England made it to the final of the World Cup.

"Good players are playing in this competition and I'm looking forward to it."

The scheduling certainly suits Sammy, a Christian who thanked the Almighty in his victory speech after the World T20 final.

As a Seventh Day Adventist, he

is no doubt glad the fixture list is dominated by Friday nights rather than Saturday afternoons.

He and Hampshire would appear to be the perfect fit.

His joie de vivre will be of great benefit to a side in transition, not to mention his all-round skills. No doubt he will have a big impact before returning home to play at the Caribbean Premier League in July.

The highs and lows

Highest team total

254-3 Gloucestershire v Middlesex – Uxbridge 2011
 250-3 Somerset v Gloucestershire – Taunton 2006
 242-3 Essex v Sussex – Chelmsford 2008
 242-2 Warwickshire v Derbyshire – Edgbaston, 2015
 240-3 Glamorgan v Surrey 0 The Kia Oval, 2015
 239-5 Sussex v Glamorgan – Hove 2010
 235-5 Somerset v Middlesex – Taunton 2011
 231-7 Kent v Surrey – The Kia Oval, Kennington 2015
 231-4 Lancashire v Yorkshire – Old Trafford, 2015
 230-4 Sussex v Gloucestershire – Hove 2012
 229-4 Lancashire v Worcestershire – New Road, 2014
 228-5 Somerset v Gloucestershire – Taunton 2005
 227-4 Gloucestershire v Somerset – Bristol 2006

Kevin O'Brien (119) and Hamish Marshall (102) both hit centuries for Gloucestershire when they played the Middlesex bowling for a huge 254-3 five years ago at Uxbridge.



Dimi Mascarenhas took the first English T20 hat-trick at Hove

In reply, Middlesex could only manage 149-8 with John Simpson top scoring with 38.

Australia pair Cameron White (116 off 53 balls) and Justin Langer (90 off 46 balls) had helped Somerset total 250-3 at Taunton in 2006.

LOWEST T20 TEAM TOTALS

47 Northamptonshire v Durham – Chester-le-Street 2011
 67 Sussex v Hampshire – Hove 2004
 68 Sussex v Surrey – Hove 2007
 68 Gloucestershire v Hampshire – Bristol 2010
 72 Kent v Hampshire – The Rose Bowl, 2011
 72 Derbyshire v Leicestershire – Derby 2013
 73 Warwickshire v Somerset – Taunton 2013
 74 Essex v Middlesex – Chelmsford 2013

Sussex's 67 all out total against Hampshire in the second ever T20 tournament in 2004 remains the second lowest in English T20 history. That was the night Dimi Mascarenhas bagged 5-14, including the competition's first hat-trick.

Kiwi tops list for highest T20 innings

Highest English T20 innings

Brendan McCullum (158*) – In 2015, the Kiwi master blaster hammered Warwickshire to 242 against Derbyshire, as he hit an unbeaten 158 off just 64 balls including 13 fours and 11 sixes.

Luke Wright (153*) – After Essex posted a total of 225 for Sussex to chase down, they needed someone to have a special innings. Step forward Luke Wright. The former England international smashed 153 off 66 balls, which included 12 fours and 11 sixes.

Graham Napier (152*) – This was the first 150 scored in Twenty20 cricket, and it came in spectacular fashion, as Napier belted 16 sixes and 10 fours on his way to 152 from just 58 balls to set Essex up for a 128-run win over Sussex.

Chris Gayle (151*) – Gayle had to be in the top five. He blasted a remarkable 151 from just 62 balls, including 15 maximums and 10 fours, for Somerset against Kent at Taunton last summer. Gayle still ended up on the losing team, as Somerset fell three runs short of their 227 target!



Brendan McCullum has the highest English T20 score

Cameron White (141*) – White scored all but 57 of Somerset's runs as his 141 led them to 198. The knock included 14 fours and six sixes. However, like Gayle, he still ended up on the losing team. Worcestershire's Graham Hick hit 97 as the hosts won with an over to spare.

OTHER HUNDREDS

- 129 DT Christian Middlesex v Kent - Canterbury 2014
- 126* M Klinger Gloucestershire v Essex - Bristol 2015
- 124* MJ Lumb Hampshire v Essex - The Rose Bowl, 2009
- 122* JJ Roy Surrey v Somerset - The Kia Oval, Kennington 2015
- 119 KJ O'Brien Gloucestershire v Middlesex - Uxbridge 2011
- 117 MJ Prior Sussex v Glamorgan - Hove 2010
- 116* GA Hick Worcestershire v Northamptonshire - Luton 2004
- 116* IJ Thomas Glamorgan v Somerset - Taunton 2004
- 116* CL White Somerset v Gloucestershire - Taunton 2006
- 116* LJ Wright Sussex v Hampshire - The Ageas Bowl 2014
- 115* DJ Malan Middlesex v Sussex - Hove 2015

Continued on facing page

Afridi hoping to make

SHAHID Afridi would dearly love to make up for his past T20 Finals Day disappointments this year.

It was at the end of his last stint with Hampshire in 2011 that the great man cut a distraught figure at Edgbaston after failing to fire the county to victory in a thrilling semi-final against Somerset, writes **SIMON WALTER**.

Afridi had been at his best with the bat as Hampshire reached Finals Day for the second time, taking 13 wickets in his first five matches – including 5-20 and 3-10 in the space of four days at The Ageas Bowl, against Gloucestershire and Sussex.

He also claimed 3-16 at Uxbridge against a Middlesex side including Ryan McLaren, who he played alongside in Friday night's corresponding fixture on the same ground.

Afridi was at his best with the bat after being promoted to open towards the end of the group stage.

But after saving his finest innings for the biggest stage, a spectacular 80 from only 42 balls against Somerset, it did not go Hampshire's way in the Super Over finale, when Afridi was the nominated batsman and bowler.

Good memories

So it is no surprise that Afridi prefers not to dwell on that wet afternoon in Birmingham, where Hampshire have now lost four successive semi-finals, having subsequently lost to Surrey and, for the last two years, to Lancashire.

"I'm got some very good memories of 2011, I really enjoyed the dressing room, the atmosphere, and it's good to be back," says Afridi, soon after arriving in the unfamiliar surroundings of Emsworth Recreation Ground, where he and Darren Sammy were the star guests at a Hampshire Cricket in the Community Kwik Cricket festival on Wednesday.

Tracked Down

Afridi also played for Hampshire in their defeats at the Champions League qualifying stage in October 2012 but his only subsequent experience of English cricket's domestic T20 competition was with Northants last year.

The story goes that, after playing six group games, Afridi did not expect to return to Wantage Road so his helmet was sold at auction, only for him to be re-signed when Northants made it to Finals Day.

His signed Northants helmet was tracked down especially for Finals Day. But, once again, the big day at Edgbaston did not end happily.

Afridi took 3-14 and made 26 but could not prevent a 13-run defeat.

He again talks of the "happy memories" made at Northants, but he is not a fan of the current struc-



Shahid Afridi hits out during Hampshire's T20 Finals Day semi final loss to Somerset five years ago.



Shahid Afridi celebrates taking the wicket of Luke Wright (Sussex) during Hampshire's win over Sussex in 2011.

ture of the Natwest T20 Blast.

He believes playing it over three months (from May 20- August 20) is the wrong way to go.

It is certainly very different to the format of the original Twenty20 Cup, which Afridi played in for Kent alongside Michael Carberry

in 2004.

Back then, most of the group games were played in June to take advantage of the long evenings.

It will be condensed next year, when it will be played in July and August to attract more children during the summer holidays.

Afridi believes that is a good thing, as he does not like the way in which fixtures are scheduled in between Specsavers County Championship and Royal London One-Day Cup games.

"It's always great playing here but it should be a separate event. You

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ke up for semi-final



Shahid Afridi and Darren Sammy at this week's Kwik Cricket Festival in Emsworth.



Boom Boom - Shahid Afridi hits out as Sussex's Matt Prior watches on at Hove in 2011.

can easily finish it in a month and you can't play this event in between four-day and one-day cricket.

"Having a six-day or eight-day gap [between games], it's not that easy to adjust yourself."

Having played in every major T20 tournament, Afridi's opinion is worth listening to.

The last year has been particularly busy for Boom Boom.

It included Pakistan's 3-0 defeat to England in Dubai in November, when James Vince was named man of the series after his first three, stellar T20 appearances.

When Afridi first played for Hampshire, Vince was only just

out of his teens but was still the county's top run scorer in the competition (445 runs at 34 apiece).

So it has been no surprise for Afridi to see Vince blossom into the player he is today.

"Vincey played really well [in Dubai], he's perfect for the national team," said Afridi. "Whenever I

played against him he really performed.

"His technique is very sound. It's a good thing as a professional cricketer, the way he adjusts himself [across the formats].

"He's the perfect player at the moment."

Afridi is similarly effusive about Darren Sammy, who he played with for Peshawar Zalmi at the Pakistan Super League in March.

"We're very lucky to have him, he was the main man leading the team in my squad a true professional guy but the main thing is he is a team man.

"He will bring confidence to the team and that is our responsibility as senior cricketers. We will try to lead the team from the front and stay together."

Different

Hampshire's team is very different to the class of 2011. Afridi's fellow spinners, Danny Briggs and Imran Tahir, are among those no longer at the club.

"Corky and Mascarenhas are not here, but there are some talented guys from what I've seen in the nets," says Afridi, who has already been impressed by fellow leg-spinner Mason Crane, having seen him bowl against Notts from his balcony in the Hilton hotel.

Afridi's greatest legacy this year may well be the influence he has on Crane over the coming months.

"It's a difficult job but I think he looks good. It will be great fun playing with these guys."

The top T20 innings (continued)

HIGHEST ENGLISH T20 INNINGS

(cont from facing page)

- 114 SA Northeast Kent v Somerset - Taunton 2015
- 112 A Symonds Kent v Middlesex - Maidstone 2004
- 111 DL Maddy Leics v Yorkshire - Headingley, 2004
- 111* L Klusener Northants v Worcestershire - Kidderminster 2007
- 111 WJ Durston Derbyshire v Notts - Trent Bridge, 2010
- 111* LJ Wright Sussex v Gloucs - Bristol 2015
- 110 GA Hick Worcs v Northants - Kidderminster 2007
- 110 J Allenby Leics v Notts - Leicester 2009
- 110* RE Levi Northants v Gloucs - Cheltenham 2013
- 109 IJ Harvey Yorkshire v Derbyshire - Headingley, 2005
- 109* T Westley Essex v Sussex - Chelmsford 2014
- 108* IJ Harvey Yorkshire v Lancashire - Headingley, 2004
- 108* ME Trescothick Somerset v Essex - Chelmsford 2011
- 108* M Klinger Gloucs v Worcs - Bristol 2013



James Vince scored 107 against Worcestershire last year.

- 107 ME Trescothick Somerset v Worcs - Taunton 2008
- 107* JC Hildreth Somerset v Glamorgan - Taunton 2012
- 107* JD Ryder Essex v Hampshire - Chelmsford 2015
- 107* JM Vince Hampshire v Worcs - New Road, 2015
- 106 AC Gilchrist Middlesex v Kent - Canterbury 2010
- 106* SB Styris Essex v Surrey - Chelmsford 2010
- 106* Azhar Mahmood Kent v Gloucs - Beckenham 2011
- 105 GC Smith Somerset v Northants - Taunton 2005
- 105 BF Smith Worcs v Glamorgan - New Road, 2005
- 105* RS Bopara Essex v Somerset - Chelmsford 2010
- 105 J Allenby Glamorgan v Middlesex - Richmond 2014
- 105 T Westley Essex v Kent - Colchester 2014
- 104* M Klinger Gloucs v Essex - Chelmsford 2015
- 104* M Klinger Gloucs v Glamorgan - Bristol 2015
- 103 LJ Wright Sussex v Kent - Canterbury 2007
- 103 DJ Malan Middlesex v Lancashire - The Brit Oval, 2008
- 103 BJ Hodge Leics v Notts - Leicester 2010

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Vince holds top total for a T20 season

Most runs scored in an English T20 season

James Vince (710) – Last year, the Hampshire batsman smashed teams for over 700 runs, including 107 in the quarter final against Worcestershire. Vince also added scores of 99*, 90, 69 and 66 on Hampshire's way to the semi final, before they were beaten by Lancashire.

Jason Roy (677) – In 2014, Roy announced himself to Twenty20 cricket with a bang. The Surrey batsman hit 677 runs over the course of the season. He hit a total of nine half-centuries, with a high score of 81*.

Jimmy Adams (668) – Adams held the crown for most runs scored in a season for four years, before he was dethroned by Roy. The Hampshire batsman struck two half-centuries and two centuries – against Surrey and Glamorgan at The Ageas Bowl – on his way to the milestone, with an average of 39.29.

Michael Klinger (654) – The Australian played in only 12 Twenty20 matches when he scored 654 runs during the 2015 season. If he would have played in the other two, the Gloucestershire batsman could have



Jimmy Adams – set a new T20 runs record in the 2010 summer

possibly overtaken James Vince for most runs scored. Klinger helped himself to three centuries and four half-centuries.

Sam Northeast (641) – Yet another total from the 2015 season has made its way into the top five. Northeast guided Kent to the quarter finals, before they lost to Lancashire. Northeast scored four half-centuries and two centuries throughout. His top score was 114.

OTHERS

601 LJ Wright 2014
584 AB McDonald 2011
572 ME Trescothick 2010
564 LJ Wright 2015
562 MJ Cosgrove 2010
548 J Allenby 2014
544 AD Hales 2011
543 TC Smith 2010
543 JA Rudolph 2014
538 T Westley 2014
525 IJL Trott 2009
525 V Chopra 2014
524 DJ Hussey 2010
522 SC Moore 2011
517 C Kiesewetter 2013
507 ME Trescothick 2011
504 WTS Porterfield 2014

Guide to who's who

THE Sports Pink's guide to the T20 Blast counties in 2016.

MIDDLESEX

Middlesex will be boosted by the arrival of former Hampshire batsman George Bailey at the end of next month.

Bailey, Middlesex's fourth overseas signing of the summer – after Adam Voges and Kiwi duo Brendon McCullum and Mitchell McClenaghan – will be available from late June until the middle of August to play in all competitions, including all of the county's T20 group matches.

McCullum was not available for Middlesex against Hampshire on Friday night as he is playing in the Indian Premier League play offs for the Gujarat Lions.

Middlesex are also being captained by Dawid Malan for the first time this season.

KENT

A 150-run opening partnership between Daniel Bell-Drummond (83no) and Joe Denly (75) fired Kent to an eight-wicket win against Somerset in their first game since last year's dramatic quarter-final defeat against Lancashire.

They have the firepower to qualify for the knockout stages again with the likes of former Hampshire all-rounder Matt Coles and Kagiso Rabada, albeit for a brief stint in June/July.

Kent have two other former Hampshire players in David Griffiths and wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Rouse, who signed a two-year contract following the retirement of Geraint Jones, with Sam Billings likely to be away for long periods with England's limited-overs teams.

Captained by Sam Northeast, Kent have a decent balance to their attack. Darren Stevens' medium pace and off-spinner James Tredwell add valuable experience, while young slow left-armer Fabian Cowdrey took 3-18 last week.

GLAMORGAN

Dale Steyn was unveiled as the Welsh county's marquee signing earlier this week.

The South African superstar will arrive when the Gujarat Lions' Indian Premier League interest is over.

Had the Lions not reached the IPL play-offs, Steyn would have been available for Glamorgan's first game against Surrey at The Oval on Thursday night.

It is hoped he will be able to play in the next six games before being replaced by fellow fast bowler Shaun Tait.

Steyn will certainly arrive fresh, having only played one game at this year's IPL, on April 21.



South Africa's Dale Steyn is Glamorgan's marquee T20 signing.



Former Hampshire all-rounder Matt Coles (middle) celebrates taking a wicket for Kent in the 2015 T20 Blast.

But Glamorgan did not too badly without him at The Oval. Dutch international Timm van der Gugten took 4-14 on debut and will be able to play alongside Steyn and Jacques Rudolph as a non-overseas player.

Rudolph has returned to the Swa-

lec Stadium for a third season as Glamorgan's main overseas player. He scored an unbeaten 34 to secure an eight-wicket win against Surrey at The Oval on Thursday night.

SUSSEX

New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor introduced himself to the Natwest T20 Blast with a magnificent 93 not out from 48 balls as Sussex amassed 242-5 before winning their opening (rain-affected) game by just one run against Gloucester-

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in the 2016 Blast



Chris Gayle is back for a second T20 stint with Somerset.



New Zealand's Ross Taylor has already impressed for Sussex in the T20 Blast.

shire (on Duckworth-Lewis).

Sussex were without the injured Luke Wright for their first game as well as IPL duo Chris Jordan and Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman.

But the vast experience of Danny Briggs is a big boost to Hampshire's rivals.

The slow left-armer will be desperate to do well when he returns to the Ageas Bowl on June 17.

Sussex have also signed South Africa all-rounder David Wiese for their first two home T20 Blast matches.

An IPL teammate of England's Chris Jordan, for Royal Challengers

Bangalore, the 31 year-old has made 20 T20 appearances for South Africa, including two against England earlier this year.

He will be play for Sussex against Somerset and Surrey at the beginning of June.

SOMERSET

For the second successive season, Chris Gayle will be at Taunton for a six-match stint. Once again, Hampshire will be in the controversial West Indian's firing line.

Last season, Gayle smashed Hampshire for eight sixes in his 49-ball 85. Hampshire will be his last opponents this year, again at Taunton, on June 19.

There is no shortage of star quality at Taunton this year as Mahela Jayawardene is Somerset's main overseas player.

Veteran all-rounder Jim Allenby has replaced Marcus Trescothick as captain and with the evergreen Peter Trego also still going, Somerset have strength in depth.

Hampshire know all about Yasir Arafat, who is now a Somerset player, as is another ex Ageas Bowl man in Johann Myburgh.

Scotland all-rounder Michael Leask, is another new face in the Cidermen's line up having signed from Northants.

ESSEX

Kiwi Matt Quinn took 4-35 on debut but Essex still lost a thriller by eight runs against Surrey last week when Wahab Riaz also made his Essex debut (the Pakistan left-arm quick will be replaced by Kiwi fast bowler Adam Milne in July).

Captained by Ravi Bopara, Essex have Quinn's better-known compatriot Jesse Ryder as their other overseas player as well as the vast experience of Ryan ten Doeschate and Graham Napier to complement homegrown young players like top-order batsmen Tom Westley and Dan Lawrence, who is an outstanding prospect.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Antipodean opening pair of Matt Klinger and Hamish Marshall is one of the Gladiators' biggest strengths. Gloucestershire have Klinger's Perth Scorchers teammate Andrew Tye as their other overseas player.

The fast bowler was described as the 'find of the tournament' at the 2014-15 Big Bash, Michael Carberry's first season with the Scorchers.

Former Hampshire all-rounder Benny Howell is another key player.

SURREY

The evergreen Azhar Mahmood took 4-38 as Surrey began their campaign with an eight-run win against Essex last week. The Curran brothers Tom (3-21) and Sam (2-23) also starred with the ball.

But Thursday night was a different story.

Continued on page 18

Stevens at top for total

Most English T20 runs scored overall

Darren Stevens (3,033) – Although Stevens isn't the most prolific of batsman, he has still scored runs. So far, he has scored 17 Twenty20 fifties for Leicestershire and Kent, with the majority coming for the latter. His highest score is 90, which he scored last season against Surrey.

Phil Mustard (2,917) – The Durham wicketkeeper is known for his explosive style of play which is showed in his strike rate, which stands at 122.93. During the 13 seasons he has played, Mustard has scored 19 half centuries, with his top score standing at 97*.

Michael Carberry (2,898) – The Ageas Bowl batsman has been very consistent over the past five seasons. Since joining Hampshire in 2006 from Kent, Carberry has contributed over 2,500 runs at an average of 31.23. Carberry has scored 27 fifties as well as a remarkable 100 not out in the thrilling quarter final win over Lancashire in 2013.

Mark Pettini (2,781) – Pettini is majorly known for his performances in the shorter form of the game, which



Michael Carberry reaches his century against Lancashire

saw him named captain of the side. His form ever since then has blossomed as the Essex man has scored 18 fifties.

Luke Wright (2,729) – The Sussex all-rounder was the competition's top run scorer in 2007, including 103 from just 45 balls against Kent. In his Twenty20 career, Wright has struck six centuries and 27 fifties, with his highest score a stunning 153*. His strike rate also surpasses the other four players on this list, at 146.76.

OTHERS

2,709 SJ Croft
2,689 SR Patel
2,686 J Allenby
2,662 OA Shah
2,573 JL Denly
2,561 MW Goodwin
2,446 SC Moore
2,430 JM Vince
2,379 DL Maddy
2,373 MJ Lumb
2,354 CD Nash
2,335 HJH Marshall
2,316 JC Hildreth
2,290 RS Bopara
2,259 Azhar Mahmood
2,232 SM Ervine
2,217 RWT Key
2,213 JHK Adams
2,209 MH Wessels

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Thomas has most wickets in one season

Most wickets taken in a single season

Alfonso Thomas (33) – Much like 2015 was the year for lots of runs to be scored, 2010 was the year for lots of wickets to be taken. Somerset's Alfonso Thomas finished the season with a remarkable 33 wickets. This led to him having a strike rate of just 13.24. His best bowling figures for the season were 3-11.

Danny Briggs (31) – The young Hampshire spinner proved troublesome for many teams during his county's trophy-winning 2010 season, as he took three wickets in a match on six occasions. His best figures were 3-5.

Kieron Pollard (29) – The duo of Thomas and Pollard for Somerset haunted so many teams in 2010, as they took 62 wickets between them. Pollard's best figures for the competition were 4-15.

Mohammad Azharullah (27) – Azharullah's is the only name on this list that didn't come from the 2010 season. He helped fire Northamptonshire to glory in 2013 as he took 27 wickets. The fast bowler had best figures of 4-14. He also picked up



Briggs starred when Hampshire first won the T20 in 2010

four wickets in a game on two other occasions.

Adil Rashid (26) – Rashid took the bulk of Yorkshire's wickets during the 2010 season. His performances reflected those that he put in during the 2009 ICC World Cup for England. Rashid finished the season with best figures of 4-20 and an economy of 7.01.

OTHERS

26 SD Parry 2010
26 TJ Phillips 2011
25 JS Patel 2014
25 SD Parry 2015
25 JP Faulkner 2015
24 CT Tremlett 2010
24 DP Nannes 2014
23 Yasir Arafat 2008
23 SI Mahmood 2010
23 WPUJC Vaas 2010
23 DR Briggs 2011
23 DJ Pattinson 2011
23 HF Gurney 2011
23 SW Tait 2015
23 TMJ Smith 2015
22 RDB Croft 2010
22 TG Southee 2011
22 U Arshad 2015
21 ND Doshi 2006
21 T Henderson 2008
21 SJ Cook 2010
21 KHD Barker 2010
21 CJC Wright 2010
21 RM Pyrah 2010

Guide to who's who

from page 17

Surrey were skittled for just 93 by Glamorgan at The Oval, with the Curran brothers the only players to make more than 20, and lost by eight wickets. South African quick Matt Pillans has not enjoyed the best of starts, going for nearly ten an over so far. But at least Zafar Ansari is playing again and Jason Roy and Kumar Sangakkara will always be a threat at the top of the order. Dwayne Bravo will join Surrey for most of June

HAMPSHIRE

Hampshire's record in the shortest format is unparalleled in the last six years.

No other county has reached Finals Day for six successive seasons, as Giles White's boys have done since 2010. Without Danny Briggs and Chris Wood, Hampshire are lacking two members of the attack that has served them so well, as well as two members of the team that won that memorable first title six years ago. James Vince is likely to be on England duty for much of the season, as he is at the moment.

But in World T20-winning captain Darren Sammy and Pakistan legend Shahid Afridi, Hampshire have two overseas players whose know-how will benefit Sean Ervine as Hampshire's beneficiary goes into his first season as the county's limited-overs captain.

Sammy is available for eight games before he heads home to captain St Lucia Zouks at the Caribbean Premier League, but Afridi should be around for the duration.

DERBYSHIRE

Shiv Thakor could prove to be an inspired signing from east midlands rivals Leicestershire. But he was not needed to bat in Derbyshire's first game as Kiwi Hamish Rutherford powered his side to a nine-wicket win against defending champions Lancashire. Derbyshire have another Kiwi player for the Blast in all-rounder James Neesham.

LANCASHIRE

The defending champions and 2014 runners-up suffered a shock defeat in their opening game, going down by nine wickets against Derbyshire. Captained by Steven Croft they have the left-arm pace of Neil Wagner, one of many Kiwis signed for this year's Blast leading their attack. And they will soon have another Black Cap in their ranks - Ageas Bowl ODI record-holder Martin Guptill.

WORCESTERSHIRE

In their first T20 match since losing to James Vince-inspired Hampshire in last year's quarter-finals, Worcestershire beat Durham at New Road thanks to a maiden T20 century from Tom Kohler-Cadmore



New Zealand's Martin Guptill will be playing for Lancashire in 2016.



Dan Christian in action for Hampshire during their T20 title-winning summer of 2010.

(127) and Jack Leach (5-33). New Zealand all rounder Mitch Santner took a couple of wickets and fellow Kiwi Matt Henry also played. But Hampshire favourite Kyle Abbott could be the key signing for Worcestershire. He heads to Worcester for the latter part of the campaign.

DURHAM

Aussie John Hastings is the only overseas player at the Riverside this season. Captained by Mark Stoneman, they lack the big names of many of the other counties. But

the north-east has been a hotbed of sporting talent over the years and more youngsters are getting the chance in the first team. Ryan Pringle and Graham Clark both batted in the top five in Durham's opening game, a defeat at Worcestershire, alongside more experi-

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in 2016 T20 Blast



Ex-Ventnor batsman Travis Head is playing for Yorkshire in the T20 Blast.



Former Hampshire batsman Jackson Bird will be playing for Nottinghamshire in the T20 Blast in 2016.

enced homegrown players like Stoneman and Phil Mustard.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Captained by Dan Christian, who will always be remembered by Hampshire fans for his hapless role in the 2010 final at The Ageas Bowl.

Notts have another former Hampshire man as an overseas player in Jackson Bird. Nottinghamshire lost their opening game against Warwickshire and will be without wicketkeeper-batsman Chris Read for much of the group campaign after he broke his hand while batting against Tino Best at the Ageas

Bowl this week. They have other players with international experience in Michael Lumb, Samit Patel and Harry Gurney.

NORTHANTS

Ex-Hampshire all rounder Rory Kleinveldt and Sri Lanka's Seek-

kuge Prasanna are the overseas players at Wantage Road. All-rounder Prasanna has effectively replaced Hampshire's Shahid Afridi and bowled very tidily on debut (1-21) as Northants beat Leicester at Grace Road last week. Captain Alex Wakely is aiming to lead Northants, last year's runners-up, to a repeat of their 2013 success.

YORKSHIRE

Batsman Kane Williamson is one of 11 Kiwis involved in this season's Blast. He is joined in the Tykes' top four by Travis Head, who played for Ventnor in 2013. They will be captained by new limited-overs skipper Alex Lees, who took charge for last night's game against Leicester. But Yorkshire were without injured England all-rounder David Willey, a winter signing from Northants, as well as homegrown bowler Matthew Fisher for their opening game.

BIRMINGHAM BEARS (WARWICKSHIRE)

Jeetan Patel and Luke Ronchi, the former Bashley wicketkeeper, form another Kiwi overseas duo. They helped the Bears beat Notts by six wickets at Trent Bridge last week, with Patel taking 3-23 and Ronchi contributing a quickfire 22. They are captained by Ian Bell but how well they do may depend on the availability of Chris Woakes.

LEICESTERSHIRE

The only county to win the domestic T20 competition in its various guises three times will no doubt be aiming to emulate the success of Leicester City. With Ireland's O'Brien brothers in their top five, along with Pakistan's Umar Akmal and Aussie Mark Cosgrove, new captain Mark Pettini has plenty of run scorers. Cosgrove's British passport means Leicestershire are also able to have Australia's Clint McKay leading their attack.

PREVIOUS FINAL RESULTS

2003: Trent Bridge; Warwickshire 115, Surrey 119 for 1 (10.5 overs).
2004: Edgbaston: Surrey 168 for 6, Leicestershire 169 for 3 (19.1 overs).
2005: The Oval (match reduced to 16 overs): Lancashire 114 for 8, Somerset 118 for 3 (14.1 overs).
2006: Trent Bridge: Notts 173 for 8, Leics 177 for 2 (20 overs).
2007: Edgbaston: Gloucestershire 146 for 8, Kent 147 for 6 (19.3 overs).
2008: The Rose Bowl: Middlesex 187 for 6, Kent 184 for 5.
2009: Edgbaston: Sussex 172 for 7, Somerset 109 (17.2 overs).
2010: Rose Bowl: Somerset 173 for 6, Hampshire 173 for 5 (20 overs). Hampshire won by losing fewer wickets.
2011: Edgbaston: Leics 145 for 6, Somerset 127 for 9.
2012: Cardiff: Hampshire 150 for 6, Yorkshire 140 for 8.
2013: Edgbaston: Northants 194 for 2, Surrey 92 (13.3 overs).
2014: Edgbaston: Birmingham Bears 181/5, Lancashire 177/8.
2015: Lancashire 166 for 7, Northants 153 for 6 (20 overs). Lancashire won by 13 runs.

Arafat top for wickets

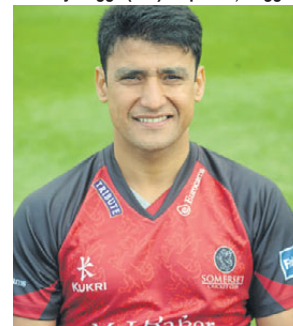
Most wickets taken in English T20 history

Yasir Arafat (153) – Arafat is one of English cricket's biggest Twenty20 journeyman, as in nine years he has played for five different teams. Those included are Kent, Surrey, Lancashire, Somerset and Hampshire. During the Pakistani's spell in England, he has picked up an astounding 153 wickets in 113 Twenty20 matches.

Azhar Mahmood (145) – Now retired, Mahmood is second on the list with 145 wickets. Before this season, Mahmood had played in every Twenty20 campaign for Surrey (2002/07 & 2013/15) and Kent (2008/12). The 41-year-olds best bowling figures in a match during his 12-year tenure were 5-24.

Alfonso Thomas (118) – There is quite a large gap between the top two players and the bottom three. However, one good season could change everything. However, that can't be said for Thomas, as the South African left Somerset after eight years. During his time there, Thomas led the wicket taking for a Twenty20 season on two occasions.

Danny Briggs (114) – Spinner, Briggs



Yasir Arafat has taken the most English T20 wickets.

who spent the first six years of his career at Hampshire but he has now moved over to Sussex for the 2016 season. Whilst at Hampshire, Briggs took an astounding 114 wickets in just seven Twenty20 seasons. He recorded 31 wickets in Hampshire's Twenty20 Cup winning campaign in 2011. As Briggs is only 25, with the talent he possesses he should easily surpass Yasir Arafat's 153 Twenty20 wickets.

Samit Patel (108) – Patel made his debut for Nottinghamshire at the age of 16 and has been with them since. Now 31, he has played in every Twenty20 season, taking 108 wickets in the process. The spinner is also the only player in English Twenty20 history to have taken a double wicket maiden.

OTHERS

108 RM Pyrah
105 JC Tredwell
101 GR Napier
96 ME Claydon
96 SD Parry
95 AJ Hall
94 AD Mascarenhas
93 GJ Batty
93 GR Breese
92 DA Cosker
87 RDB Croft
86 JD Shanley

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Stevens top of list for T20 appearances

Most appearances overall in English T20

Darren Stevens (141) – Stevens is yet another player to have been involved in every Twenty20 season. During the 13 years the tournament has been running, the 40-year-old played the first two for Leicestershire before moving to Kent, whom he still plays for. The all-rounder has taken 85 wickets, with best figures of 4-14 alongside scoring 3,033 Twenty20 runs, which makes him the competitions highest ever scorer.

James Foster (135) – Ex-England wicket keeper Foster has spent his whole career with Essex and has also played in every Twenty20 season. His highest score with the bat is 65*, with an average of 22.94. Foster has also got impressive stats behind the stumps, as he boasts 63 catches and 43 stumpings from his 135 matches.

Azhar Mahmood (134) – Now featuring for the second time in this article, you should all know what Mahmood was capable of as a bowler. However, with the bat he was no stranger as he scored 18 half centuries followed up with a career best 106*.

Mark Wallace (128) – The batsman



Darren Stevens has played the most English T20 matches.

has played for Glamorgan since 1999, making him the most loyal player to make this list. Although Wallace has played in 128 matches, he has only scored 1354, at an average of 17.81. He has also scored one 50, which resulted in him scoring 69*.

James Hildreth (128) – Hildreth was essential for Somerset in their 2005 triumph, as well as their runs to the final in 2009, 2010 and 2011. During his time with Somerset, the 32-year-old has scored 2316 runs, putting him inside the top 20 all time run scorers. Although Hildreth is primarily a batsman, he occasionally bowled, with his best figures being 3-24.

OTHERS

127 P Mustard 2003-2015
125 R Clarke 2003-2015
124 SR Patel 2003-2015
119 JC Tredwell 2003-2015
119 DA Cosker 2003-2015
118 GJ Batty 2003-2015
118 DD Masters 2003-2015
118 SJ Croft 2006-2015
117 RN ten Doeschate 2003-2015
115 ML Pettini 2003-2015
115 MW Goodwin 2003-2014
114 SM Ervine 2005-2015
113 Yasir Arafat 2006-2015
112 PD Trego 2003-2015

HAMPSHIRE'S REMA

HAMPSHIRE have won of the best T20 records in English cricket.

The county have qualified for the last six Finals Days, and have won the tournament twice - in 2010 and 2012.

But their record in the shortest form of the game was not great during the competition's early days.

Here, TOM BROOKS looks at Hampshire's complete domestic T20 record.

Twenty20 Cup 2003

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 153 (D Kenway 35, J Hamblin 34, M Davis 3-13), Sussex 148-7 (T Ambrose, 54, Wasim Akram 2-22, D Mascarenhas 2-51). Hampshire won by 5 runs.

Man of the match – James Hamblin (Hants)

Canterbury: Hampshire 145-6 (J Hamblin 38, S Katich 59), Kent 147-4 (A Symonds 96, J Hamblin 2-21, Wasim Akram 2-29). Kent won by 6 wickets

Man of the match – Andrew Symonds (Kent)

Ageas Bowl: Essex 155-6 (A Flower 49, Wasim Akram 2-19, S Udal 2-31), Hampshire 151-3 (D Kenway 40, S Katich 59). Essex won by 4 runs.

Man of the match – Andy Flower (Essex)

Uxbridge: Hampshire 134-7 (J Hamblin 30, D Mascarenhas 39, S Cook 3-14, A Noffke 3-22), Middlesex 136-2 (P Weekes 56, J Hamblin 1-10). Middlesex won by 8 wickets.

Man of the match – Paul Weekes (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 140-9 (S Newman 59, J Hamblin 3-22, L Prittupaul 2-17, Wasim Akram 2-20), Hampshire 121 (S Katich 45, A Holloake 5-21). Surrey won by 19 runs.

Man of the match – Adam Holloake (Surrey)

Hampshire finished bottom of the South Group in 2003, as they only won one game. They also finished with the worst Net Run Rate out of the 18 counties, with -1.321.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Surrey

Most runs: 301 – Brad Hodge (Leicestershire)

Most wickets: 16 – Adam Holloake (Surrey)

Most catches: 8 – John Batty (Surrey)

Hampshire

Most runs: 179 – Simon Katich

Most wickets: 8 – Wasim Akram

Most catches: 3 – Dimitri Mascarenhas

Twenty20 Cup 2004

Chelmsford: Essex 135-9 (R Irani 36, D Mascarenhas 3-22, S Udal 2-24, C Tremlett 2-27), Hampshire 95 (G Napier 3-13, R Bopara 3-18). Essex won by 40 runs.

Man of the match – Ronald Irani (Essex)

The Oval: Surrey 198-5 (M Butcher 53, M Rampuraksh 76, A Holloake 44, Bruce 3-21), Hampshire 167-9 (S Udal 37, D Mascarenhas 47, A Holloake 5-34). Surrey won by 31 runs.

Man of the match – Dimi Mascarenhas (Hants)

Hove: Sussex 67 (D Mascarenhas 5-14, C Tremlett 2-15, J Bruce 2-16), Hampshire 69-7 (J Kirtley 2-8). Hampshire won by three wickets.

Man of the match – Dimi Mascarenhas (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 170-7 (M Clarke 46, D Mascarenhas 52, S Cook 3-25), Middlesex 140-8 (C Tremlett 3-20, S Udal 2-22). Hampshire won by 30 runs.

Man of the match – Dimi Mascarenhas (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 177-3 (S Watson 97, M Clarke 38), Kent 113-9 (D Mascarenhas 3-20, S Udal 2-24). Hampshire won by 64 runs.

Man of the match – Shane Watson (Hants)



FRIENDS PROVIDENT WINNERS 2010

Ageas Bowl (Quarter-Final): Hampshire 120-9 (M Clarke 36, D Mascarenhas 33), Lancashire 121-1 (M Lloye 64). Lancashire won by 9 wickets.

Man of the match – Mal Lloye (Lancashire)

Hampshire performed a lot better in the second instalment of the T20 cup, as they finished second in the

South Group behind a dominant Surrey team, who won four of their five games. Hampshire were then thrashed in the quarter-finals by Lancashire.

COMPETITIONS STATS

Winners – Leicestershire

Most runs: 356 – Darren Maddy (Leicestershire)
Most wickets: 20 – Adam Holloake (Surrey)
Most catches: 8 – Alistair Brown (Surrey) & Nic Potthas (Hants)
Hampshire
Most runs: 152 – Dimitri Mascarenhas
Most wickets: 12 – Dimitri Mascarenhas
Most catches: 8 – Nic Potthas

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MARKABLE RUNS ...

me in the T20 history ...



Twenty20 Cup 2005

Ageas Bowl: Middlesex 210-6 (O Shah 78, S Ervine 2-13), Hampshire 192-7 (N Pothas 59, C McMillan 31, I Pathan 3-16). Middlesex won by 18 runs.

Man of the match – Owais Shah (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire vs Sussex – match abandoned.

The Oval: Surrey 118 (R Clarke 52, Logan 4-37, Bruce 3-20, Udal 2-6), Hampshire 119-7 (G Lamb 31, S Udal 34). Hampshire won by 3 wickets.

Man of the match – Shaun Udal (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire vs Essex – match abandoned.
Chelmsford: Hampshire 151-9 (G Lamb 67, C McMillan 35, Danish Kaneria 3-27), Essex 0-0 (Did not bat). No result.

Hove: Match restricted to 12 overs per side. Sussex 99-5 (M Prior 42, S Ervine 2-28), Hampshire 89-6 (S Ervine 46, Mushtaq Ahmed 3-19). Sussex won by 10 runs.

Man of the match Mushtaq Ahmed (Sussex)

Deer Park: Middlesex 174-7 (O Shah 54, C McMillan 2-21, S Udal 2-28, S Ervine 2-35), Hampshire 178-4 (C McMillan 65, S Ervine 39). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

Man of the match – Craig McMillan

Hampshire were unlucky in the 2005 season as three of their eight matches were washed out. Even though they finished level on points with Middlesex and Sussex, Hampshire came fourth as their head to head record was the worst out of the three.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Somerset
Most runs: 410 – Owais Shah (Middlesex)
Most wickets: 17 – Nayan Doshi (Surrey)
Most catches: 8 – Ally Brown (Surrey) & Dewald Pretorius (Warwickshire)
Hampshire
Most runs: 183 – Craig McMillan
Most wickets: 8 – Sean Ervine
Most catches: 4 – Nic Pothas

Twenty20 Cup 2006

Arundel: Hampshire 152-6 (M Carberry 43, G Lamb 55, Mushtaq Ahmed 4-30), Sussex 153-6 (C Adams 42, C Tremlett 2-38). Sussex won by 4 wickets.

Man of the match – Mushtaq Ahmed (Sussex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 225-2 (M Carberry 90, M Stokes 62, D Thornley 50), Middlesex 166-9 (P Weekes 49, D Thornley 3-30, C Tremlett 2-18). Hampshire won by 59 runs

Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Chelmsford: Hampshire 158-7 (C Benham 59, D Mascarenhas 35, G Napier 3-19), Essex 162-3 (R Irani 81, S Udal 2-32). Essex won by 8 wickets.

Man of the match – Ronald Irani (Essex)

Canterbury: Kent 134-9 (T Henderson 63, D Thornley 4-22, B Taylor 2-28), Hampshire 119 (N Pothas 30, A Khan 3-11, A Hall 3-21). Kent won by 15 runs.

Man of the match – Tyron Henderson (Kent)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 151-4 (M Carberry 53, G Lamb 37, D Mascarenhas 42), Essex 115 (D Gough 34, S Udal 3-21, G Lamb 3-23, D Mascarenhas 2-15). Hampshire won by 36 runs.

Man of the match – Greg Lamb (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 141-5 (Azhar Mahmood 65, B Taylor 2-16), Hampshire 131 (C Benham 38, G Lamb 30, N Doshi 4-30). Surrey won by 10 runs.

Man of the match – Azhar Mahmood (Surrey)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 112-5 (D Thornley 37), Sussex 97-9 (D Mascarenhas 4-23). Hampshire won by 15 runs.

Man of the match – Dimitri Mascarenhas (Hampshire)

Southgate: Hampshire 111 (J Louw 4-18), Middlesex 116-1 (P Weekes 45, N Compton 50). Middlesex won by 9 wickets.

Man of the match – Paul Weekes (Middlesex).

A poor season for Hampshire, as they came fifth and they were the only team Middlesex beat.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Leicestershire
Most runs: 464 – Justin Langer (Somerset)
Most wickets: 21 – Nayan Doshi (Surrey)
Most catches: 12 – Darren Maddy (Leics)
Hampshire
Most runs: 222 – Michael Carberry
Most wickets: 9 – Dimitri Mascarenhas & Dominic Thornley
Most catches: 5 – Dominic Thornley

Continued on page 22

Suppiah has best bowling stat in game

ARUL Suppiah boasts the best English T20 bowling figures in history.

The Somerset all-rounder took an unbelievable 6-5 against Glamorgan in Cardiff five years ago.

That is one of just four six-wicket hauls in the competition's 13-year history.

TOP BOWLING DISPLAYS

6-5 AV Suppiah Somerset v Glamorgan - Cardiff 2011
6-16 TG Southee Essex v Glamorgan - Chelmsford 2011
6-21 AJ Hall Northants v Worcs - Northampton 2008
6-24 TJ Murtagh Surrey v Middlesex - Lord's 2005
5-6 PD Collingwood Durham v Northants - Chester-le-Street 2011
5-11 Mushtaq Ahmed Sussex v Essex - Hove 2005
5-13 M Kartik Middlesex v Essex - Lord's 2007
5-13 AB McDonald Leics v Notts-Trent Bridge 2010
5-14 AD Mascarenhas Hampshire v Sussex Hove 2004
5-14 PD Collingwood Durham v Derbyshire - Chester-le-Street 2008
5-14 GG Wagg Glamorgan v Worcs -



Dimi Mascarenhas took 5-14 versus Sussex at Hove 12 years ago

New Road 2013
5-14 KJ Abbott Middlesex v Sussex - Hove 2015
5-16 RE Watkins Glamorgan v Gloucs - Cardiff 2013
5-17 Naved-ul-Hasan Sussex v Essex - Hove 2011
5-17 Wahab Riaz Kent v Gloucs - Beckenham 2011
5-17 CJ Liddle Sussex v Middlesex - Lord's 2012
5-17 GM Smith Essex v Kent - Chelmsford 2012
5-18 A Symonds Surrey v Kent - Beckenham 2010
5-18 OP Rayner Sussex v Somerset - Hove 2011
5-19 NM Carter Warwickshire v Worcs - Edgbaston 2005
5-19 DR Briggs Hampshire v Durham - The Rose Bowl, 2011
5-20 Shahid Afridi Hampshire v Gloucs - The Rose Bowl, 2011
5-21 AJ Hollioake Surrey v Hampshire - The Rose Bowl, 2003
5-21 J Allenby Leics v Lancs - Old Trafford 2008 t934
5-21 JA Brooks Yorkshire v Leicestershire - Headingley, 2013
5-21 JEC Franklin Middlesex v Kent - Lord's 2015

First to take five wickets in T20 game

DIMI Mascarenhas was the first Hampshire player to take five wickets in an English T20 game.

He bagged 5-14 against Sussex at Hove 12 years ago, and that remains the best bowling figures by a Hampshire player in the shortest form of the game.

Danny Briggs and Shahid Afridi are the only two other bowlers to have followed in Mascarenhas' footsteps.

HAMPSHIRE BEST BOWLING ENGLISH T20

- 5-14 AD Mascarenhas v Sussex - Hove 2004
- 5-19 DR Briggs v Durham - The Rose Bowl 2011
- 5-20 Shahid Afridi v Gloucestershire - The Rose Bowl 2011
- 4-12 SM Ervine v Gloucestershire - Bristol 2010
- 4-16 SM Ervine v Middlesex - Uxbridge 2009
- 4-16 CP Wood v Glamorgan - Cardiff 2015
- 4-17 DR Briggs v Sussex-Hove 2011
- 4-19 LA Dawson v Kent - Canterbury 2013
- 4-22 DJ Thornely v Kent The Kent - Beckenham 2006
- 4-23 AD Mascarenhas v Sussex - The Rose Bowl 2006



Sean Ervine took 4-12 against Gloucestershire in 2010

- 4-24 DR Briggs v Glamorgan - The Rose Bowl 2011
- 4-24 CP Wood v Kent - Canterbury 2014
- 4-25 CT Tremlett v Essex - Chelmsford 2008
- 4-28 GA Lamb v Kent - The Rose Bowl 2005
- 4-28 DR Briggs v Sussex - The Ageas Bowl 2014
- 4-37 RJ Logan v Surrey - The Brit Oval 2005
- 4-37 Yasir Arafat v Somerset The Ageas Bowl, 2015
- 3-5 DR Briggs v Kent - Canterbury 2010
- 3-10 Shahid Afridi v Sussex - The Rose Bowl, 2011
- 3-12 CT Tremlett v Middlesex - Southgate 2007 tt657
- 3-12 AD Mascarenhas v Middlesex - Richmond 2008
- 3-13 DA Griffiths v Essex The Rose Bowl, 2007
- 3-13 Imran Tahir v Sussex - The Rose Bowl 2011
- 3-15 H Riazuddin v Sussex - The Rose Bowl 2009
- 3-15 WR Smith v Lancashire - Edgbaston, 2014
- 3-16 Shahid Afridi v Middlesex - Uxbridge 2011
- 3-17 AD Mascarenhas v Kent - The Rose Bowl, 2007.

Lumb hits historic h

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Twenty20 Cup 2007

Ageas Bowl: Kent 153-6 (R Key 59, R McLaren 46, Dimitri Mascarenhas 3-17), Hampshire 153-7 (C Benham 45, D Mascarenhas 31, S Cook 3-30). Match tied. Man of the match - Dimitri Mascarenhas (Hampshire)

The Oval: Match restricted to 10 overs per side. Hampshire 72-8 (N Doshi 3-6), Surrey 75-4 (A Brown 31). Surrey won by 6 wickets. Man of the match - Nayan Doshi (Surrey)

Southgate: Match restricted to 12 overs per side. Middlesex 73-7 (C Tremlett 3-12, A Voges 2-4), Hampshire 68-8 (C Keegan 3-14, M Kartik 3-16). Middlesex won by 5 runs. Man of the match - Chad Keegan (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Match restricted to 13 overs per side. Hampshire 103-2 (A Voges 66), Sussex 108-1 (L Wright 49, C Adams 56). Sussex won by 9 wickets. Man of the match - Chris Adams (Sussex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Middlesex - Match abandoned

Ageas Bowl: Match restricted to 15 overs per side. Essex 99-8 (J Bruce 2-21, D Griffiths 3-13, G Lamb 2-17), Hampshire 100-3 (S Ervine 50). Hampshire won by 9 wickets. Man of the match - Sean Ervine

Chelmsford: Hampshire 107-5 (C Benham 41), Essex 0-0. Match abandoned.

Hove: Sussex 205-5 (M Goodwin 45, L Wright 98, B Taylor 2-32), Hampshire 132-8 (M Brown 35, R Kirtley 4-22). Sussex won by 73 runs. Man of the match - Luke Wright

Hampshire recorded their worst season since 2003, as they finished bottom of the South Division with only one win. Their Net Run Rate was also the worst out of all the counties (-1.116).

COMPETITION STATS

Winners - Kent
Most runs: 346 - Luke Wright (Sussex)
Most wickets: 17 - Chris Schofield (Surrey) & Simon Cook (Kent)
Most catches: 9 - Ryan McLaren (Kent)
Hampshire
Most runs: 134 - Sean Ervine
Most wickets: 5 - Billy Taylor & Chris Tremlett
Most catches: 5 - Adam Voges & James Bruce

Twenty20 Cup 2008

Ageas Bowl: Middlesex 190-7 (O Shah 48, Pietersen 3-33), Hampshire 157-8 (K Pietersen 43, S Ervine 31, S Udal 3-21). Middlesex won by 33 runs. Man of the match Shaun Udal (Middlesex)

Hove: Sussex 204-6 (M Goodwin 69, D Smith 72), Hampshire 205-4 (M Carberry 58, S Ervine 38). Hampshire won by 6 wickets. Man of the match - Sean Ervine

Canterbury: Hampshire 162-7 (M Carberry 51, M Lumb 38, I Harvey 31), Kent 166-6 (J Denly 50, R Key 40). Kent won by 4 wickets. Man of the match - Azhar Mahmood

The Oval: Surrey 175-6 (M Ramprakash 60, Abdul Razzaq 65, I Harvey 2-20), Hampshire 177-6 (S Ervine 46, M Lumb 45, M Carberry 45, Saqlain Mushtaq 3-24). Hampshire won by 4 wickets. Man of the match - Michael Lumb

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 85 (M Lumb 32, C Liddle 4-15), Sussex 87-1 (M Goodwin 46). Sussex won by 9 wickets. Man of the Match - Chris Liddle

Richmond: Hampshire 133-8 (I Harvey 31, M Carberry 37, T Murtagh 3-15), Middlesex 127-7 (S Udal 40, M Hayward 3-22, D Mascarenhas 3-12). Hampshire won by 6



Hampshire captain Dominic Cork celebrates the county's first ever T20 trophy win on home soil in 2010.



Hampshire player celebrate after team-mate Dan Christian hits the winning run in the 2010 T20 final.

runs. Man of the match - Shaun Udal (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 147-7 (S Newman 52, B Taylor 2-18, M Hayward 2-24), Hampshire 151-4 (M Lumb 63, I Harvey 34). Hampshire won by 6 wickets. Man of the match - Michael Lumb (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 164-6 (M Carberry 51, M Brown 44), Essex 164-8 (J Gallian 55,

C Tremlett 2-27). Match tied. Man of the match - Michael Carberry (Hants)

Chelmsford: Essex 159 (M Pettini 49, C Tremlett 4-25, D Mascarenhas 3-36), Hampshire 105 (Danish Kaneria 4-22). Essex won by 54 runs. Man of the match - Danish Kaneria (Essex)

With the finals day being held at

the Ageas Bowl for the first time, it would have been great if Hampshire had got there. But they came fourth in the South Division.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners - Middlesex
Most runs: 451 - Joe Denly (Kent)

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Hundred for Hants



Michael Lumb celebrates his century against Essex in 2009.

JIMMY Adams is the only Hampshire player to hit two T20 centuries in England.

Both his hundreds came at The Ageas Bowl within a few weeks of each other in Hampshire's trophy-winning 2010 summer.

Michael Lumb's 124 not out against Essex seven years ago remains Hampshire's highest individual T20 innings.

Here are the county's top individual scores in English domestic T20 matches.

- 124* MJ Lumb v Essex - The Rose Bowl, 2009**
- 107* JM Vince v Worcestershire - New Road, 2015**
- 101* JHK Adams v Surrey - The Rose Bowl, 2010**
- 100* JHK Adams v Glamorgan - The Rose Bowl, 2010**
- 100* MA Carberry v Lancashire - The Ageas Bowl, 2013**
- 99* JM Vince v Kent - Canterbury 2015**
- 97* SR Watson v Kent - The Rose Bowl, 2004**
- 93 MJ Lumb v Middlesex - The Rose Bowl, 2009**
- 93* JM Vince v Nottinghamshire - Trent Bridge, 2014**
- 90 MA Carberry v Middlesex - The Rose Bowl, 2006**
- 90* JM Vince v Sussex - Hove 2015**
- 89* ND McKenzie v Gloucestershire - Gloucester 2011**
- 87* MA Carberry v Sussex - The Ageas Bowl, 2014**

Uxbridge: Hampshire 181-6 (M Carberry 56, S Ervine 53), Middlesex 125 (S Ervine 4-16, L Dawson 3-25). Hampshire won by 56 runs. Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 219-2 (M Lumb 124, M Carberry 62), Essex 144 (M Walker 50, Ervine 3-19). Hampshire won by 75 runs. Man of the match – Michael Lumb (Hants)

Tunbridge Wells: Kent 182 (R Key 58, D Stevens 56), Hampshire 174-7 (M Lumb 59, M Carberry 39, C Benham 36). Kent won by 8 runs. Man of the match – Darren Stevens (Kent)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 183-6 (M Lumb 93), Middlesex 155-5 (B Godleman 57, O Shah 45). Hants won by 28 runs. Man of the match – Michael Lumb (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 131-7 (D Mascarenhas 45), Kent 132-3 (D Stevens 62, G Jones 35). Kent won by 7 wickets. Man of the match – Darren Stevens (Kent)

Northampton (Quarter-finals): Northamptonshire 134-6 (A Hall 39, Ervine 2-8), Hampshire 121 (D Mascarenhas 36, Hall 3-25). Northants win by 13 runs. Man of the match – Andrew Hall (Northants)

Hampshire enjoyed a better season, with much of the thanks going to Michael Lumb and Michael Carberry as they helped seal Hampshire a quarter final spot for only the second time.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Sussex
Most runs: 525 – Jonathan Trott (Warwickshire)
Most wickets: 18 – Alfonso Thomas (Somerset)
Most catches: 11 – Will Smith (Durham)
Hampshire
Most runs: 442 – Michael Lumb
Most wickets: 13 – Sean Ervine
Most catches: 8 – Chris Benham

Twenty20 Cup 2010

Ageas Bowl: Kent 114-9 (Abdul Razzaq 2-16), Hampshire 117-5 (S Ervine 31). Hants won by 5 wickets. Man of the match – Abdul Razzaq (Hants)

Cardiff: Hampshire 114-9 (M Carberry 34), Glamorgan 115-3 (J Allenby 52, D Briggs 2-26). Glamorgan won by 7 wickets. Man of the match – James Allenby (Glamorgan)

Ageas Bowl: Somerset 104-7 (Ervine 2-10, Abdul Razzaq 2-20), Hampshire 97 (J Adams 61, K Pollard 3-15). Somerset won by 7 runs. Man of the match – Alfonso Thomas (Somerset)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 201-2 (J Adams 101, S Ervine 54), Surrey 191-9 (M Ramprakash 61, C Wood 3-30). Hampshire won by 10 runs. Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

Hove: Hampshire 132-8 (J Adams 31, N McKenzie 40, N Pothas 32), Sussex 136-1 (M Goodwin 76, B McCullum 59). Sussex won by 9 wickets. Man of the match – Murray Goodwin (Sussex)

County Ground, Bristol: Gloucestershire 68 (S Ervine 4-12, D Cork 2-9, C Wood 2-12), Hampshire 69-3 (J Vince 26). Hampshire won by 7 wickets. Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

The Oval: Surrey 200-8 (A Symonds 63, S Davies 60, S Ervine 3-28), Hampshire 189-6 (N McKenzie 52, J Adams 46, J Vince 43). Surrey won by 11 runs. Man of the match – Andrew Symonds (Surrey)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 205-5 (J Vince 77, N McKenzie 55), Gloucestershire 177 (C Wood 3-27, D Briggs 3-31). Hampshire won by 28 runs. Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Continued on page 24

Good form continues

JONNY Bairstow continued his superb 2016 form with 140 against Sri Lanka in the first Test at Headingley.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the Yorkshire and England batsman's run of scores.

South Africa v England, Newlands, January 2-6
Bairstow's 150 not out in a stunning stand of 399 with Ben Stokes (258) was his first Test hundred. He added 30no in the second innings.

South Africa v England, The Wanderers, January 14-16
Last out for 45 to give England a first-innings lead as they ultimately won by seven wickets.

South Africa v England, Centurion, January 22-26
Defeat for England and a rare failure for Bairstow, with scores of nought and 14.

South Africa 'A' v England XI, Kimberley, January 30
A score of 58 from 30 balls, remarkably with six sixes and no fours, and a stand of 78 with centurion James Taylor could not earn Bairstow selection for the limited-overs internationals that followed.

Peshawar Zalmi v Quetta Gladiators, Dubai, February 19
A one-off Pakistan Super League outing for Peshawar yielded 15 runs.

Yorkshire v Hampshire, Headingley, April 17-20



Jonny Bairstow celebrates his half century in the Test at Headingley

Coming in at 41 for three, Bairstow compiled a majestic career-best 246 as he and Adam Lyth (111) put on 205 for Yorkshire's fourth wicket. He made only five in the second innings but his work was done.

Warwickshire v Yorkshire, Edgbaston, April 24-27
Bairstow was looking fluent, with 20 from 25 balls, before fellow England squad member Chris Woakes bowled him.

Nottinghamshire v Yorkshire, Trent Bridge, May 1-4
The scores may not be huge, but his 29 in the first innings came in a partnership of 83 with opener Alex Lees while Bairstow smashed 35 off just 20 balls in the second as the same pair put on 54.

Yorkshire v Surrey, Headingley, May 8-11
Bairstow and Joe Root forged Yorkshire's record Headingley partnership, 372 for the fourth wicket, at five and a half runs an over and having come together at 45 for three. It is a measure of Bairstow's free-scoring ways that he proclaimed himself "cheesed off" at falling two short of a double century. Root went on to 213.

England v Sri Lanka, Headingley, May 19-23 (in progress)
Beyond just the weight of his runs, Bairstow is also developing the knack of digging his teams out of perilous positions – none more so that when coming in with England 83 for five. He scored with undeterred freedom in a stand of 141 with Alex Hales (86), the number seven overtaking the opener on his way to 140. That set up England's innings success.



Shahid Afridi celebrates taking a wicket during his successful spell with the county in 2011.

Most wickets: 23 – Yasir Arafat (Kent)
Most catches: 8 – Martin van Jaarsveld (Kent) & Lou Vincent (Lancashire)
Hampshire
Most runs: 334 – Michael Carberry
Most wickets: 13 – Mornantau Hayward
Most catches: 7 – Chris Benham

Ageas Bowl: Sussex 133-8 (D Smith 63, D Cork 3-30, H Riazuddin 3-15), Hampshire 137-1 (J Adams 68, S Ervine 42). Hampshire won by 9 wickets. Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

The Oval: Surrey 125-8 (L Dawson 2-18, B Taylor 2-24), Hampshire 124-9 (C Benham 39). Surrey won by 1 run. Man of the match – Grant Elliott (Surrey)

Hove: Hampshire 122-7 (M Carberry 36, D Smith 2-2), Sussex 128-2 (C Nash 56). Sussex won by 8 wickets. Man of the match – Chris Nash (Sussex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 191-6 (M Lumb 54, J Adams 44), Surrey 173-8 (M Ramprakash 73, Cork 2-22). Surrey won by 2 wickets. Man of the match – Mark Ramprakash (Surrey)

Twenty20 Cup 2009

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Iron shields to asses: LVG's better quotes

LOUIS van Gaal's football may have been boring, but his press conferences were quite the opposite.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at some of the best quotes from his time as Manchester United manager.

P IS FOR PHILOSOPHY (July 17, 2014)

During his unveiling press conference at Old Trafford, Van Gaal set his sights high and spoke of his philosophy for the first time. "First I have to see how quickly the players can pick up my philosophy. I haven't worked with most of them and it is very important that there is a click between the players and the manager. For me, the challenge is always first and not fourth."

LOATHING IN LA (July 23, 2014)

Annoyed at spending one hour meandering through traffic to get to the Pasadena Rose Bowl, Van Gaal uses his first tour press conference to launch an attack on the people who organised it. When asked whether United's commercial commitments were impinging on football matters, Van Gaal said: "More or less, yes because we have to prepare the season and when you have a lot of commercial activities also for the players, and you have to travel distances, you have to fly a lot, you have also jet lag, and that is not very positive for a good preparation. But the tour was already arranged so I have to adapt, I shall adapt."

SHAW NOT FITTING IN (July 29, 2014)



Louis van Gaal - was critical of ex-Saint Luke Shaw in 2015.

Van Gaal criticises ex-Saint Luke Shaw for turning up to pre-season unfit following his £23million move to United. "I think he [Shaw] needs to be fit and he is not very fit, therefore he can't perform what I want. He has to be fit first and to train individually."

IRON MAN LOUIS (October 25, 2014)

After Jose Mourinho attempted to play mind games with Van Gaal before Chelsea played United. "I'm made from a little bit of iron," Van Gaal told reporters. "So I have a shield, an iron shield. Everybody can write or speak about me and I cannot change that."

FESTIVE GREETINGS (December 23, 2014)

Van Gaal raises a glass to the assembled press pack at his press conference last year, from facing page. "I am allowed to toast with you, my friends of the media. Merry Christmas. I wish your family a lot of love, health and happiness. Cheers. Not a bad wine. (It is) our sponsor."

LOUIS GETS TWITCHY (January 22, 2015)

When asked about supporters' criticism of his 3-5-2 system, Van Gaal said: "We have won more games with 4-4-2, but when you analyse the games we have twitched our ass. I said to my players I was squeezing my ass, but it was the wrong expression. I have twitched my ass on the bench because we were out of balance."

Continued on facing page

Afridi stars but Hants

from page 23

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 159-8 (S Ervine 74, J Adams 31), Essex 164-1 (R Bopara 94). Essex won by 9 wickets. Man of the match – Ravi Bopara (Essex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 199-5 (J Adams 100, J Vince 39, H Waters 3-30, Glamorgan 145-9 (M Wallace 42, D Briggs 3-27). Hampshire won by 54 runs. Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

Cantebury: Hampshire 139 (S Ervine 44, H Bandara 3-14, M van Jaarsveld 3-25), Kent 94 (D Briggs 3-5, S Jones 3-20). Hampshire won by 45 runs. Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

Chelmsford: Hampshire 161-6 (J Adams 32, N Pothas 59), Essex 163-7 (G Flower 54). Essex won by three wickets. Man of the match – Grant Flower (Essex)

Taunton: Hampshire 216-5 (N McKenzie 73, S Ervine 53), Somerset 220-4 (M Trescottick 78, P Trego 72). Somerset won by 6 wickets. Man of the match – Marcus Trescottick (Somerset)

Uxbridge: Middlesex 164-7 (O Shah 80), Hampshire 165-4 (J Adams 64, M Carberry 41). Hampshire won by 6 wickets. Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 99 (T Smith 3-26), Middlesex 100-2 (D Warner 43). Middlesex won by 8 wickets. Man of the match – David Warner (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 195-5 (N McKenzie 67, M Carberry 36, S Ervine 32, J Adams 30), Sussex 150 (C Nash 31, C Wood 2-27). Hampshire won by 45 runs. Man of the match – Neil McKenzie (Hants)

Edgbaston (Quarter-Final): Warwickshire 153-5 (D Maddy 44, D Briggs 3-29), Hampshire 154-5 (J Vince 66, Abdul Razzaq 33). Hampshire won by 5 wickets. Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Ageas Bowl (Semi-Final): Essex 156-7 (M Pettini 55, A Cook 38, D Briggs 3-29), Hampshire 157-4 (Abdul Razzaq 44, J Adams 34). Hampshire won by 6 wickets. Man of the match – Abdul Razzaq (Hants)

Ageas Bowl (Final): Somerset 173-6 (C Kieswetter 71), Hampshire 173-5 (N McKenzie 52, S Ervine 44, J Adams 34, Abdul Razzaq 33). Hampshire won by losing fewer wickets. Man of the match – Neil McKenzie

Hampshire won their first ever Twenty20 title, after they defeated Somerset in the final by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

Hampshire only just about qualified for the knockout phase though, as they finished fourth and only progressed as they head to better head to head record than Surrey.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Hampshire
Most runs: 668 Jimmy Adams (Hants)
Most wickets: 33 – Alfonso Thomas (Somerset)
Most catches: 19 – Jos Buttler (Somerset)
Hampshire
Most runs: 668 – Jimmy Adams
Most wickets: 31 – Danny Briggs
Most catches: 10 – James Vince

Twenty20 Cup 2011

Ageas Bowl: Somerset 145-7 (P Trego, D Mascarenhas 3-19), Hampshire 146-3 (M Lumb 53, J Adams 39). Hampshire won by 7 wickets. Man of the match – Dimitri Mascarenhas (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 140-7 (Z De Bruyn 52, Imran Tahir 2-15), Hampshire 144-3 (J Vince 51, M Lumb 36, N McKenzie 32). Hants won by 7 wickets. Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)



James Vince and Sean Ervine celebrate a catch against Somerset in the 2011 semi-final at Edgbaston.



Shahid Afridi hits out during the 2011 T20 semi final against Somerset at Edgbaston.

Tunbridge: Match restricted to 5 overs per side. Hampshire 78-1 (M Lumb 35, J Adams 33), Kent 58-2 (D Stevens 45, S Jones 2-2). Hants won by 20 runs. Man of the match – Michael Lumb

Ageas Bowl: Glamorgan 120-9 (Briggs 4-24), Hampshire 121-8 (J Vince 32). Hants won by 2 wickets. Man of the match – Danny Briggs (Hants)

Gloucester: Hampshire 165-4 (N McKenzie 89), Gloucestershire 156-6 (A Gidman 43). Hants won by 9 runs. Man of the match – Neil McKenzie (Hants)

Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire – Match abandoned.

Cardiff: Glamorgan v Hampshire – Match abandoned.

Chelmsford: Essex 162-7 (T Southee 74), Hampshire 136 (J Vince 52, T Phillips 4-29). Essex won by 26 runs. Man of the match – Tim Phillips (Essex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 139-7 (J Adams 47), Gloucestershire 107 (S Afridi 5-20). Hampshire won by 16 runs (D/L method). Man of the match – Shahid Afridi (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 126-8, Sussex 91

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ts fail to reach final



Hampshire fans in party mood at Cardiff on T20 Finals Day in 2012.



Michael Bates catches Jonny Bairstow off the bowling of Danny Briggs in the 2012 T20 final in Cardiff.

(SAfridi 3-10, Imran Tahir 3-13). Hampshire won by 35 runs.
Man of the match – Shahid Afridi (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 141-6 (N McKenzie 48, M van Jaarsveld 3-20), Kent 72 (D Mascarenhas 3-29). Hants won by 69 runs.
Man of the match – Dimitri Mascarenhas (Hants)

Uxbridge: Middlesex 121-9 (Shahid Afridi

3-16), Hampshire 124-3 (J Vince 39, J Adams 38). Hants won by 7 wickets.
Man of the match – Shahid Afridi (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 151-7 (J Vince 55, S Ervine 45, T Southee 3-30), Essex 122-6 (R Bopara 48, O Shah 38, D Mascarenhas 3-20). Hampshire won by 29 runs.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

The Oval: Surrey 151-5 (T Maynard 47,

Hampshire 113 (Shahid Afridi 36, C Tremlett 4-16). Surrey won by 38 runs.
Man of the match – Chris Tremlett (Surrey)

Hove: Hampshire 193-2 (J Vince 85, N McKenzie 45, J Adams 34), Sussex 81 (D Briggs 4-17, D Mascarenhas 3-20). Hampshire won by 112 runs.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 116-2 (N McKenzie

38, S Ervine 34), Middlesex 0-0. Match abandoned.

Ageas Bowl (Quarter final): Hampshire 154-6 (N McKenzie 56, S Ervine 35), Durham 99 (D Briggs 5-19). Hampshire won by 55 runs.
Man of the match – Danny Briggs (Hants)

Edgbaston: Hampshire 138-4 (Shahid Afridi 80), Somerset 94-6. Match tied (D/L method). Match decided with super over. Somerset 16-0, Hampshire 5-1. Somerset won in the super over.
Man of the match – Jos Buttler (Somerset)

Hampshire performed brilliantly again in the 2011 season, winning 11 of their 16 games. They even managed to top the South Division with a 1 point deduction that they had incurred from the 2010 season. They were unfortunate not to make the final, as rain affected the semi-final against Somerset and Somerset performed better in the super over.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Leicestershire
Most runs: 584 – Andrew McDonald (Leics)
Most wickets: 26 – Tim Phillips (Essex)
Most catches: 12 – Andrew McDonald (Leics)
Hampshire
Most runs: 445 – James Vince
Most wickets: 23 – Danny Briggs
Most catches: 11 – James Vince

Twenty20 Cup 2012

Hove: Sussex v Hampshire – Match abandoned.

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 64, T Roland-Jones 4-25), Middlesex 161-4 (P Stirling 71, D Malan 46). Middlesex won by 6 wickets.
Man of the match – Paul Stirling (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Kent 151-5 (S Northeast 46), Hampshire 148-6 (J Vince 31). Kent won by 3 runs.
Man of the match – Sam Northeast (Kent)

Canterbury: Kent 135-6 (D Stevens 60), Hampshire 138-4 (G Maxwell 66, J Adams 31). Hants won by 6 wickets.
Man of the match – Glenn Maxwell (Hants)

Richmond: Middlesex 156-2 (P Stirling 82), Hampshire 160-6 (S Ervine 75, S Katich 40). Hants won by 4 wickets.
Man of the match – Sean Ervine

Chelmsford: Essex 176-4 (J Franklin 78), Hampshire 177-4 (G Maxwell 60, S Katich 42, J Vince 32). Hants won by 6 wickets.
Man of the match – Glenn Maxwell (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 94-6, Hampshire 95-3 (M Kartik 3-16). Hants won by 7 wickets.
Man of the match – Dimitri Mascarenhas (Hants)

The Oval: Surrey 84-4, Hampshire 63-0. Hants won by 19 runs (D/L method)
Man of the match – Liam Dawson (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Sussex 203-5 (M Prior 81), Hampshire 0-0. Match abandoned.
Ageas Bowl: Hampshire v Essex – Match abandoned.

Trent Bridge (Quarter final): Nottinghamshire 178-7 (S Patel 60, Maxwell 3-36), Hampshire 182-6 (N McKenzie 79, L Dawson 30). Hampshire won by 4 wickets.

Man of the match – Neil McKenzie (Hants)

Cardiff (Semi final): Somerset 125-6 (C Kieswetter 63), Hampshire 126-4 (S Ervine 34, M Carberry 33, S Katich 32). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.

Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

Continued on page 28

‘...Mr Mike Smalling. I mean, Chris’

from facing page

SAM GETS THE BOOT

(February 11, 2015)

Annoyed at Sam Allardyce's claim that United played long-ball football against West Ham, Van Gaal hits back at the Hammers boss by producing a pamphlet of diagrams and charts which apparently undermine his opposite number's theory.

"When you have 60 per cent ball possession you cannot play long balls. So again, they did it 71 (per cent) and we 49, and I give it to you, you can copy it and then maybe you can go to Big Sam and he will get a good interpretation."

THE NIGHT OF THE SAXOPHONIST (May 20, 2015)

After giving an eight-minute speech on stage, Van Gaal expresses his disappointment that a saxophonist at the club's end of year bash has not been given enough praise.

"We have the best fans in the world and I thank you for that... but tonight I have seen a lady that plays the saxophone fantastically. Give her a big round of applause!"

VALDES HUMILIATED (July 15, 2015)

The first press conference of Van Gaal's second pre-season tour in Seattle proved to be just as exciting as the one he gave on his maiden tour. The Dutchman ditched goalkeeper Victor Valdes, a man he had known for 13 years, after he apparently refused to play for the reserves.



Louis van Gaal - football was dull, but press conferences were not!

"Last season, he refused to play in the second team and there are other aspects you need as a keeper at United. When you are not willing to follow those principles, there is only one way and that is out."

MISTAKEN IDENTITY FOR 'MIKE' (July 22, 2015)

After the tour had moved on to San Jose, Van Gaal spoke about the pecking order at Manchester United, but forgot the name of the third-most important player in the squad, who was sat next to him at the time.

"The players have to accept the captains. The first captain is Wayne Rooney, the second captain is Michael Carrick and the third is Mr Mike Smalling. I mean Chris, sorry."

LOUIS VAN GAAL'S ARMY (September 11, 2015)

Van Gaal responds to claims he has lost the support of the dressing room and the fans at United.

"The fans are shouting every week: Louis van Gaal's army! Louis van Gaal's Army! So also the fans are very satisfied with Louis van Gaal and the players are satisfied with me."

"ENJOY THE WINE AND A MINCE PIE" (December 23, 2015)

Van Gaal walks out of his press conference after answering just three questions and says as he walks past a table of mince pies and wine laid on for the media: "Enjoy the wine and a mince pie. Goodbye."

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What fans at Rangers can now enjoy....

FORMER Manchester City, QPR and Newcastle midfielder Joey Barton looks set for his first adventure in Scotland after making the move from Burnley to Rangers.

The 33-year-old, who also enjoyed a spell with Ligue 1 side Marseille, was given a contract offer by the newly promoted Clarets but had his heart set on Ibrox where he faces the tantalising prospect of an Old Firm derby with Celtic.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some notable footballing moments from the combative midfielder's career so far.

1) **Player of the Year**
Despite the rollercoaster ride in the Championship, Burnley were eventually promoted as champions. Barton made 38 league appearances and provided the impetus from midfield. His performances earned him the club's Player of the Year prize – no mean feat considering the Clarets also boasted 24-goal man Andre Gray.

2) **He's got form**
Burnley are not the first club Barton has won promotion with. He helped both QPR and Newcastle achieve that feat. In 2010, Barton helped Newcastle to the Championship title, while in 2014, QPR saw off Derby in the play-off final at Wembley.

3) **He's got form – part two**
Not one to shy away from battles – ball optional – Barton was sent off in the dying



Joey Barton has swapped Burnley for Glasgow Rangers.

minutes of the final day fixture against Manchester City in May 2012. The red card came for an elbow on Carlos Tevez, but Barton was not finished. A minor brawl with the likes of Sergio Aguero, Vincent Kompany and Mario Balotelli ensured Barton would be retrospectively given a significant ban. He ended up leaving QPR for a loan spell with Marseille.

4) **Allez L'OM**
Barton joined Marseille in August 2012, and aside from his attempts at the French accent, his first goal was one to remember. In November 2012, Barton scored directly from a corner to give Marseille a 1-0 lead in their Europa League group stage match against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

5) **When one door closes...**
Aged 16, Barton had been hoping to progress up the ranks at Everton. However, a change in academy management resulted in his exit, he claimed he was deemed "too small to make it as a midfielder". Barton adds that on the same day of his Everton rejection, he was offered a start at Manchester City. He went on to make 130 Premier League appearances for the Citizens.

6) **Who needs enemies?**
In 2007, Barton became involved in a training ground fight with his then-Manchester City team-mate Ousmane Dabo. The fight left French international Dabo with a detached retina. Barton was given a four-month suspended prison sentence for the assault, while also fined and banned for six matches as well as ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service.

Hampshire's bid for

From page 27

Cardiff (Final): Hampshire 150-6 (J Adams 43, J Vince 36), Yorkshire (D Miller 72, C Wood 3-26). Hampshire won by 10 runs.
Man of the match – David Miller (Yorkshire)

Hampshire recorded their second Twenty20 win in three years as they beat Yorkshire, who were hot favourites, in the final. Yorkshire had only lost one of their 10 group games, whereas Hampshire lost two.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Hampshire
Most runs: 402 – Phil Hughes (Worcestershire)
Most wickets: 21 – Mitchell Starc (Yorkshire)
Most catches: 13 – Gary Ballance (Yorkshire)
Hampshire
Most runs: 254 – James Vince
Most wickets: 15 – Dimitri Mascarenhas
Most catches: 7 – James Vince

Twenty20 Cup 2013

Ageas Bowl: Surrey 139-6, Hampshire 144-5 (M Carberry 60, N McKenzie 37). Hampshire won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Chelmsford: Essex v Hampshire – Match abandoned.

Hove: Sussex 145-6, Hampshire 148-5 (N McKenzie 71, M Carberry 50). Hampshire won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – Neil McKenzie (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Sussex 118-7 (C Nash 40), Hampshire 122-6 (M Carberry 41). Hampshire won by 4 wickets.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Richmond: Middlesex 162-5 (D Malan 77), Hampshire 164-3 (J Vince 84, M Carberry 43). Hampshire won by 7 wickets.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

The Oval: Surrey 126-6, Hampshire 127-3 (J Adams 30). Hampshire won by 7 wickets.
Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Kent 143-8 (D Briggs 3-19, Sohail Tanvir 3-29), Hampshire 135-8 (N McKenzie 47, M Carberry 35). Kent won by 8 runs.
Man of the match – Mitchell Claydon (Kent)

Ageas Bowl: Essex 182-5 (O Shah 68), Hampshire 183-5 (M Carberry 54, S Ervine 36). Hampshire won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Cantebury: Hampshire 185-6 (M Carberry 83, N McKenzie 45), Kent 123-9 (Dawson 4-19). Hampshire won by 63 runs.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 190-3 (S Ervine 60, N McKenzie 47, J Adams 43), Lancashire 201-4 (K Brown 49, S Moore 44, S Croft 43). Hampshire won by 1 run.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Ageas Bowl (Quarter final): Hampshire 202-3 (M Carberry 100, J Vince 60), Lancashire 201-4 (K Brown 49, S Moore 44, S Croft 43). Hampshire won by 1 run.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Edgbaston (Semi final): Hampshire 142-9 (S Ervine 47), Surrey 145-6 (Z De Bruyn 41). Surrey won by 4 wickets.
Man of the match – Azhar Mahmood (Surrey)

Yet again, Hampshire were involved in the Twenty20 finals day. Unfortunately this time, they fell at the first hurdle.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Northamptonshire
Most runs: 517 – Craig Kieswetter (Somerset)
Most wickets: 20 – Mohammad Azharullah



Hampshire celebrate after winning the 2012 T20 final.



Pyromania! Hampshire players walk out for the 2012 final in Cardiff.

(Northamptonshire)
Most catches: 10 – Jos Buttler (Somerset) & Craig Kieswetter (Somerset)
Hampshire
Most runs: 502 – Michael Carberry
Most wickets: 12 – Danny Briggs
Most catches: 9 – Liam Dawson

Twenty20 Cup 2014

Ageas Bowl: Glamorgan 161-7 (D Briggs

3-26), Hampshire 151-6 (M Coles 42, J Vince 38). Glamorgan won by 10 runs.
Man of the match – James Allenby (Glamorgan)

Hove: Hampshire 177-5 (J Vince 52, S Ervine 38, A Wheeler 34), Sussex 159-5 (E Joyce 56). Hampshire won by 18 runs.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Northwood: Hampshire 198-2 (J Vince 68, O Shah 49, J Adams 38, A Wheeler 30),

Middlesex 151-9 (P Stirling 40, D Briggs 3-20). Hampshire won by 47 runs.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Essex 145-5 (B Foakes 43), Hampshire 146-2 (J Vince 57, O Shah 50). Hampshire won by 8 wickets.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 171-7 (M Carberry 73, J Adams 47, D Bollinger 3-19), Kent 149-4 (R Key 89, D Briggs 3-28). Hampshire won

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a third T20 trophy



Dimi Mascarenhas celebrates with Hampshire fans after T20 victory in 2012.



Simon Katich shows off the 2012 T20 trophy to his son Xavier, while Dimi Mascarenhas, above, celebrates a wicket.



by 22 runs.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Taunton: Somerset 176-4 (P Trego 76, C Kieswetter 57), Hampshire 175-7 (M Carberry 38). Somerset won by 1 run.
Man of the match – Craig Kieswetter (Somerset)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 180-6 (J

Adams 69, J Vince 39, G Maxwell 30), Gloucestershire 178-8 (B Howell). Hampshire won by 2 runs.
Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

Cardiff: Hampshire 170-6 (M Carberry 59, J Adams 52), Glamorgan 164-6 (M Wallace 38). Hampshire won by 6 runs.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

The Oval: Hampshire 131-9 (Azhar Mahmood 3-38), Surrey 137-2 (J Roy 63). Surrey won by 8 wickets.
Man of the match – Jason Roy (Surrey)

Canterbury: Hampshire 173-9 (S Ervine 47, W Smith 37), Kent 126 (C Wood 4-24). Hampshire won by 47 runs.
Man of the match – Sean Ervine (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Somerset 155-4 (C Kieswetter 60), Hampshire 116 (A Thomas 2-10). Somerset won by 39 runs.
Man of the match – Craig Kieswetter (Somerset)

Ageas Bowl: Middlesex 173-6 (P Stirling 64), Hampshire 123 (N Dexter 3-34). Middlesex won by 50 runs.
Man of the match – Paul Stirling (Middlesex)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 177-3 (M Carberry 87, J Adams 52), Sussex 171-8 (L Wright 116, D Briggs 4-28). Hampshire won by 6 runs.
Man of the match – Luke Wright (Sussex)

Chelmsford: Essex 167-9 (M Pettini 44, W Smith 3-17), Hampshire 168-5 (M Carberry 57, M Coles 54). Hampshire won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

Trent Bridge (Quarter final): Nottinghamshire 197-2 (M Wessels 62, S Patel 53, A Hales 52), Hampshire 198-5 (J Vince 93, S Ervine 39). Hampshire won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Edgbaston (Semi final): Lancashire 160-5 (A Prince 72, W Smith 3-15), Hampshire 101 (J Adams 5-3). Lancashire won by 59 runs.
Man of the match – Ashwell Prince (Lancashire)

Hampshire didn't perform great in the group stage, but it was just enough to see them get to the knockout stage.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Warwickshire
Most runs: 677 – Jason Roy (Surrey)
Most wickets: 25 – Jeetan Patel (Warwickshire)
Most catches: 14 – Aaron Finch (Yorkshire)
Hampshire
Most runs: 447 – Jimmy Adams
Most wickets: 21 – Danny Briggs
Most catches: 8 – Jimmy Adams

Twenty20 Cup 2015

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 173-4 (J Adams 55), Essex 156 (R ten Doeschate 68, Yasir Arafat 3-27). Hants won by 17 runs.
Man of the match – Jimmy Adams (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 172-6 (J Vince 66), Kent 178-5 (A Blake 71, S Northeast 60, W Smith 3-24). Kent won by 5 wickets.
Man of the match – Alex Blake (Kent)

Cardiff: Hampshire 148-8 (S Ervine 49), Glamorgan 127-8 (C Wood 4-16). Hampshire won by 21 runs.
Man of the match – Chris Wood (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 172-3 (O Shah 58, M Carberry 57, S Ervine 42), Middlesex 153-6. Hampshire won by 19 runs.
Man of the match – Owais Shah (hants)

Taunton: Hampshire 167-3 (J Vince 64), Somerset 173-2 (C Gayle 85, P Trego 51). Somerset won by 8 wickets.
Man of the match – Chris Gayle (Somerset)

Canterbury: Kent 183-5 (S Northeast 54, A Blake 49), Hampshire 187-4 (J Vince 99, S Ervine 37). Hampshire won by 6 wickets.
Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Lord's: Hampshire 199-5 (M Carberry 72, O Shah 64), Middlesex 178-9 (P Stirling 54). Hampshire won by 21 runs.
Man of the match – Owais Shah (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 41, O Shah 36), Sussex 158-3 (C Cachopa 89, M Machan 52). Sussex won by 7 wickets.
Man of the match – Craig Cachopa (Sussex)

Chelmsford: Essex 212-5 (J Ryder 107, M Pettini 74), Hampshire 134 (R Bopara 3-23, R Topley 3-25). Essex won by 78 runs.
Man of the match – Jesse Ryder (Essex)

Ageas Bowl: Glamorgan 181-7 (J Rudolph 77, G Berg 3-34), Hampshire 158-6 (M Carberry 70). Glamorgan won by 23 runs.
Man of the match – J Rudolph (Glamorgan)

cont on page 30

A faithful sportsman

For the Glory
The Life of Eric Liddell from Olympic Champion to Modern Martyr
By Duncan Hamilton

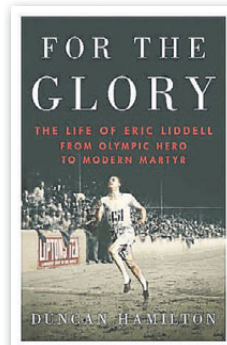
Sportsbookofthemoonth.com price: £13.99, saving £6.00 on rrp

DUNCAN Hamilton has twice won the sports book of the year award and it would be no surprise if *For the Glory*, his compelling biography of Eric Liddell, ensured he completed a unique hat-trick later this year.

Our knowledge of Liddell has largely been determined by the 1981 movie *Chariots of Fire*, although as is so often the case, Hollywood's need to inject drama into a film overrides historical fact; Hamilton's engaging narrative rectifies this.

A Scot born in China, Liddell refused to run in the 100 metres at the 1924 Paris Olympics, because the final was held on a Sunday.

British team officials explained that in France, the Sabbath ended at noon and, as the final was scheduled for the afternoon, he was free to race. "My Sabbath lasts all day," replied Liddell, an unequivocal affirmation of faith which gave fellow Brit Harold Abrahams an unexpected opportunity to win gold – which he did, in a (then) Olympic



record time of 10.6 seconds.

Liddell did salvage a bronze in the 200 metres but secured his place in the record books by winning the 400 metres, also in a new Olympic record time.

Yet sport was only one aspect of Liddell's fascinating life and in Hamilton's accomplished biographical hands, the period after 1924 is equally gripping.

Liddell returned to China where, as a Christian missionary, he taught science in what was a shockingly violent society, one where unmarried pregnant women were buried alive. The terror and danger multiplied after the Japanese seized power as missionaries were routinely beheaded.

Later, Liddell moved his family to Canada while he remained in China, though from 1943, he was interned in a Japanese POW camp. Prisoners were starved, beaten and murdered; Liddell too suffered ill-treatment and he would die of a brain tumour in 1945 aged just 43.

In an age where some of those who make a living from sport habitually cheat in order to gain an advantage, Liddell appears something of anathema, but this is an uplifting story of a truly decent man, his athletic prowess and his unwavering faith. Read it.

ECB should make talent available for Blast England stars' absence has hurt our T20 competition

THE most radical concept introduced in English county cricket for over 40 years began at The Rose Bowl on June 13, 2003. Hampshire opening batsmen James Hamblin and Derek Kenway walked to the crease to signal the start of the ECB's experiment with Twenty20 cricket, writes SIMON CARTER.

The game against Sussex, on a Friday evening in West End 13 years ago, was the beginning of what has turned out to be a T20 revolution.

From the small acorn of just five games for each of the 18 first class counties in 2003, grew the mighty oak of 16 qualifying matches in 2010.

That much-enlarged group format – which saw a leap of 10 games to 16, giving each county eight home matches – was much criticised. It was argued that what had begun as a novelty product had too quickly raced to saturation point.

It did seem that way, with games coming thick and fast and sometimes proving a geographical nightmare for players and spectators – witness Hampshire playing two games in two days in the summer of 2010, the first in Sussex and the second in Bristol.

With such a huge qualifying round of games, it seemed – to me anyway – that certain matches lost some of their importance.

Proof that might have been the case could be seen at The Ageas Bowl, which staged the first ever T20 international on English soil in 2005 when England triumphed against Australia.

Despite Hampshire eventually winning the competition for the first time in 2010, qualifying group game attendances were down on previous years.

There was a debate, not that long ago, that T20 had split the counties. Some liked the format of 16 group games, giving them more chance to bring in valuable gate income, but others insisted the programme had to be reduced.

Less is more, so to speak.

In the end, the fixture list was reduced, but only just.

This year, like more recent times, Hampshire and the other first class counties, will play 14 qualifying group games.

Everyone knows appreciates how important T20 is to English cricket – both from an entertainment and financial point of view.

The ECB should want the best possible T20 product possible.

The T20 Blast remains their best chance of attracting new fans to the game, certainly of getting more families going to matches.

Therefore, I have always been baffled that the best English players have routinely never featured that often due to their international commitments.



Kevin Pietersen on a rare T20 appearance for Hampshire in 2010



Jos Buttler, right, and Joe Root won't be playing many domestic T20 matches for their counties in 2016

Back in the first few years of T20, Andrew Flintoff and Kevin Pietersen were the box office stars of the English game, yet the former rarely appeared for his county in T20 and ditto the latter during his Hampshire days.

The same scenario still applies.

The likes of Joe Root, Ben Stokes, James Anderson and Alex Hales

may not play too many T20 games this year because of England commitments. It still seems the ECB are missing a trick.

Obviously, if the top English names are not available, the next best option is to draft in quality overseas talent.

Hampshire have done that this season, by bringing back Shahid Afridi

for a second Ageas Bowl stint and also the West Indies' T20 World Cup-winning skipper Darren Sammy.

Though mainly known for his bowling these days, Afridi remains a player that can empty a bar when he strides to the crease.

And there aren't too many of those around these days.

Vince top runscorer

From page 27

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 186-5 (A Wheeler 78), Surrey 157-9 (D Briggs 3-21). Hampshire won by 29 runs.

Man of the match – Adam Wheeler (Hants)

Cheltenham: Hampshire 116 (J Vince 32, C Miles 3-25), Gloucestershire 117-5 (G Jones 40). Gloucestershire won by 5 wickets.

Man of the match – Geraint Jones (Gloucestershire)

Hove: Hampshire 204-3 (J Vince 90, A Wheeler 51, O Shah 40), Sussex 200-6 (C Nash 88, L Wright 42, C Wood 3-40).

Hampshire won by 4 runs. Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 143-7 (M Carberry 57, M Waller 3-17), Somerset 137-8 (Yasir Arafat 4-37). Hampshire won by 6 runs. Man of the match – Michael Carberry (Hants)

New Road (Quarter final): Hampshire 196-4 (J Vince 107, M Carberry 42), Worcestershire 58-2. Hampshire won by 17 runs (D/L method). Man of the match – James Vince (Hants)

Edgbaston (Semi final): Hampshire 115 (J Vince 69, S Parry 3-21), Lancashire 119-4 (K Brown 45). Lancashire won by 6 wickets. Man of the match – Stephen Parry (Lancashire)

A record sixth T20 finals day appearance for Hants, who were beaten by Lancashire in the semi finals for the second time.

COMPETITION STATS

Winners – Lancashire
Most runs: 710 – James Vince (Hants)
Most wickets: 25 – Stephen Parry & James Faulkner (both Lancs)
Most catches: 14 – Steve Croft & Alex Davies (both Lancs)
Hampshire
Most runs: 710 – James Vince
Most wickets: 18 – Chris Wood & Danny Briggs
Most catches: 11 – Adam Wheeler

Overall Twenty20 record
P144 W81 T3 L54 NR(NR=No Result) 7
Hampshire Twenty20 records
Highest team score: 225-2 vs Middlesex
Lowest team score: 85 vs Sussex
Most appearances: 122 – Sean Ervine
Most runs in total: 2688 – Michael Carberry
Most runs in a season: 710 – James Vince
Highest player score: 124 – Michael Lumb
Highest partnership: 170 – Michael Lumb & Michael Carberry
Most wickets in total: 119 – Danny Briggs
Most wickets in a season: 31 – Danny Briggs
Best figures: 5-14 – Dimitri Mascarenhas



James Vince.



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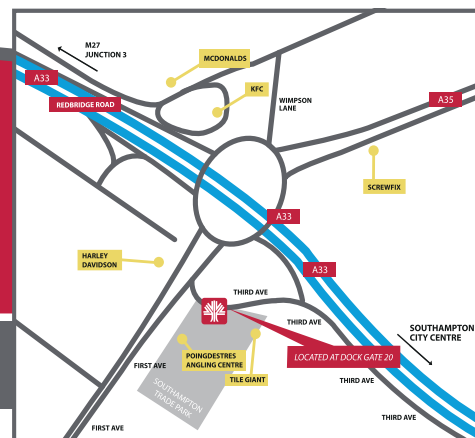
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LVG's biggest mistakes as United boss

LOUIS van Gaal has left his role as manager of FA Cup winners Manchester United.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five mistakes of Van Gaal's two seasons at Old Trafford:

1) HIS REFUSAL TO CHANGE FORMATION
Van Gaal's stubborn commitment to the 4-2-3-1 formation has been one of the main reasons why United's football has been so unappetising this season. With two holding midfielders in the team, it has often been the case that United have had seven players in their own half. Either a 4-3-3 or a 4-1-4-1 formation may have brought more goals, and more success for Van Gaal.

2) THE SALE OF ANGEL DI MARIA TO PSG
Nobody would regard Di Maria's first season at the club as a success. The Argentina midfielder scored four goals in 32 matches and he and his family had to deal with a shocking burglary at their Cheshire home. But the 27-year-old had pace, power and skill beyond almost all his United teammates. Van Gaal has bemoaned the fact that his squad does not have "speedy wingers", but he had one at his disposal from the word go in Di Maria, who has flourished at Paris St Germain.

3) CRITICISING HIS OWN PLAYERS IN PUBLIC

One of the golden rules during Sir Alex Ferguson's reign was that he would only in extreme circumstances criticise a player in public. That gave the squad the feeling their manager would do anything to protect them. Van Gaal turned his 'hair dryer' on Wayne



Louis van Gaal only signed one striker – Anthony Martial

Rooney and Phil Jones during the squad's first public training session of their pre-season tour in 2014. Van Gaal suggested to Ben Amos that even at approaching 63 years old, he could have saved a 60-yard shot from Roma's Miralem Pjanic in Denver the following week. Chris Smalling was branded "stupid" for his dismissal against Manchester City last year and Robin van Persie received the same treatment for removing his shirt while celebrating his equaliser in United's 1-1 draw against Chelsea.

4) HIS STRIKER SHORTAGE

When Van Gaal sold Van Persie and Javier Hernandez to Fenerbahce and Bayer Leverkusen last summer, there was little disappointment from the United fans. Van Persie looked a spent force and Hernandez had regressed since his maiden season at United when he scored 20 goals. When Adnan Januzaj joined Borussia Dortmund on loan, there was an expectancy that up to three new forwards would come in to bolster the ranks, but Van Gaal was happy with just one – Anthony Martial from Monaco. The talented but inexperienced young striker was suddenly leading the line for Manchester United after just one full season of football in Ligue 1.

5) MISSING OUT ON THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The often dreary football, strange substitutions and surprising public outbursts could have been forgiven if United had finished in the top four. Coming fifth was all the more galling considering United finished behind rivals Manchester City on goal difference.

Jose or Pep? Who's got

THE rivalry between Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola is set to be renewed with the pair poised to take charge of the Manchester clubs this summer.

Lest we forget, both of those giants of English football only finished three points ahead of a Saints side in 2015/16 which cost millions less to piece together.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at who faces the biggest rebuilding job - Mourinho at United or Guardiola at City.

FANS

After the sterility and frustration of the Louis van Gaal era - even after winning the FA Cup - United fans are in need of a lift. The high-profile Mourinho can provide that.

His appointment may not be universally welcomed by supporters, as some of his past histrionics are an issue for some, but large swathes of the United fanbase have been calling for him to be installed for months.

If results follow, Old Trafford is sure to be re-energised, at least in the short term.

Guardiola already seems to have all City fans onside, with some even planning welcome parties.

LEAGUE POSITIONS

United have finished seventh, fourth and fifth in the last three Premier League seasons and have the most ground to make up. Yet they have only just missed out on a Champions League position on goal difference and they won the FA Cup, indicating they still have a competitive squad.

If the Mourinho effect quickly rubs off United could be challenging again in the not-too-distant future.

City expect to be challenging now. Last season's fourth place was a huge disappointment. Fresh blood will arrive but City should be able to climb the table if Guardiola can simply get them playing to their potential.

TRANSFERS

Neither club should struggle recruiting this summer. Both managers will be backed financially with United's commercial power continuing to bring in record revenues while City's resources are almost limitless.

United cannot offer Champions League football but the lure of playing at Old Trafford and for Mourinho will carry much weight. City may not have United's history but they do boast Champions League opportunities and there will be no shortage of top players wanting to play for Guardiola.

City could strengthen in many positions, although wholesale changes are unlikely.



A merchandise seller holds up a Jose Mourinho scarf outside Old Trafford this week.



Complete with Jose Mourinho scarf, fan John Bartrum sits next to a poster of Eric Cantona outside Old Trafford.

KEEPING KEY PLAYERS

United may have to combat renewed attempts from Real Madrid to prise away David de Gea. The outstanding goalkeeper is the player United can least afford to lose and retaining him will be one of Mourinho's top priorities.

There are no other United players quite in the same bracket, although it may do them no harm to offer the experienced Michael Carrick a new deal.

Despite last season's underachievement, City are still in a strong position when it comes to

retaining players.

Sergio Aguero is the jewel in their crown but, despite expressing a desire to return to South America in future, he appears fully committed to the cause.

Yaya Toure is likely to receive offers from elsewhere but he is now a

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t the most work to do?



Manchester-bound Pep Guardiola receives a farewell present before the kick-off of the Bundesliga match between FC Bayern Munich and Hanover 96 earlier this month.



Nemanja Matic celebrates a Chelsea title win under Jose Mourinho. Could they be about to be reunited?

declining force and may be allowed to leave if a replacement is found.

YOUTH

It seems remarkable that just a few months the famed United youth system that produced the Class of 92 was being criticised for

drying up.

Since then, the likes of Jesse Lingard, Marcus Rashford and Cameron Borthwick-Jackson have shone.

Their emergence was one of the plus points of Van Gaal's regime and probably puts United ahead of City in this regard at present.

City so far have just Kelechi

Iheanacho to show for their much-trumpeted £200million academy. Yet these are still early days in what is a long-term project at the Etihad Campus.

With a number of highly-rated players in their system, particularly in the 14-16 age bracket, the fruits of City's work could be seen

in the years ahead.

SUMMARY

Mourinho seems to have the bigger job to do to rouse a fallen giant, yet his past record, cash reserves and youthful squad nucleus suggest he can get there quickly.

Guardiola is being viewed more like the final piece in the City jigsaw. His arrival alone should prompt an upturn in fortunes in an under-achieving squad.

That said, their group is an ageing one and a process of renewal needs to begin.

● The Sports Pink looks at four candidates who would appear to fit the bill as potential new signings for Mourinho at United.

JOHN STONES

Mourinho is widely perceived as not having much trust in young players, but the Portuguese certainly seemed interested in Stones last summer when still in charge at Chelsea, with the London club having a string of bids for the 21-year-old Everton centre-back rejected. A somewhat shaky season has followed for Stones, but it is clear the England man has the potential to be a major star, and a partnership with international colleague Chris Smalling at the heart of United's backline could work very well for the long term.

NEMANJA MATIC

The 27-year-old Serbia midfielder was a vital player in Mourinho's Premier League title-winning Chelsea side of 2014-15 and, like Ramos, would add considerable solidity and bite to an area of the United team which has lacked that somewhat.

KARIM BENZEMA

United have some promising youngsters in attack but only managed to score 49 goals in the Premier League in 2015-16 and the addition of powerful, no-nonsense striker Benzema would appear a virtually guaranteed means of addressing the situation - certainly the 28-year-old France international's potent form for Real under Mourinho and since would suggest as much.

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC

United have seemingly been crying out for some personality on the field of late, and the maverick Ibrahimovic would undoubtedly bring that. He is another frontman to have thrived under Mourinho - they had a season together at Inter Milan - and who boasts a goal record most can only dream of. The Sweden international is now 34, but there is plenty of expectation he will have a positive impact on English football should he arrive after leaving Paris St Germain.

Two bosses in numbers

MANCHESTER United manager Louis van Gaal was sacked despite his team's FA Cup final victory.

The Dutchman's tenure in figures

- 0 - Manchester United have scored nil in a game on 23 separate occasions under Van Gaal.
- 1 - Trophies won: this season's FA Cup.
- 3 - United finished third in their Champions League group this season to drop into the Europa League, where they reached the last 16 before losing to rivals - and eventual finalists - Liverpool.
- 4 - Goals conceded in last season's embarrassing League Cup loss to MK Dons.
- 15 - United finished 15 points behind surprise Premier League champions Leicester this season. They were 17 behind champions Chelsea in Van Gaal's first season in charge.
- 19 - Premier League games drawn under Van Gaal, one quarter of the games he has overseen in the league.
- 28 - Players given their United debuts by Van Gaal.
- 29 - Wayne Rooney is United's leading goalscorer of Van Gaal's reign with 29 in all competitions. Juan Mata has 20, with Anthony Martial firing 17 in one season.
- 49 - League goals scored by United this season, their lowest total in the Premier League era.

£57.6m - The potential fee paid for Martial,



Jose Mourinho has won 32 major honours as a manager

should the Frenchman's performances trigger the full range of bonus payments included in the deal.

110 - Jesse Lingard's 110th-minute winner finally saw off Crystal Palace in Saturday's FA Cup final.

Jose Mourinho's managerial career in numbers

6 - Number of different clubs managed, starting with Benfica in 2000. There have since been stints at Uniao de Leiria, Porto, Chelsea (two spells), Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

513 - League games managed at his six different clubs.

32 - Honours won, including two Champions Leagues, three Premier League titles, two Serie A crowns, one La Liga success and two Portuguese league wins.

5 - Other trophies won during his time in English football with Chelsea - three League Cups, one FA Cup, one Community Shield.

87 - Points earned by Mourinho's Chelsea side during their last title winning-season in 2014-15.

9 - Defeats suffered by Chelsea in their first 16 Premier League matches of last season, prompting his dismissal.

1 - Has suffered just a single loss to Manchester United in the Premier League.

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LOCAL CRICKET



Back (from left): Neil Trestrail, Paul Garlick, Aiden O'Kelly, Dave Streater, Neil Taylor, Keith Harsham, Dick Batchelor (scorer). Front: Pete Robson, Kevin Poulter, Chris Wheeler, Colin Day, Nick Gargaro.

Seniors off to dream start

HAMPSHIRE Seniors are off to a two-match winning start in the ECB 50-plus County Championship, following up a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over the Channel Islands with what might prove to be an important six-wicket success against Somerset, who are often among the stronger sides in the western group.

A remarkable first innings collapse at Gosport's Privett Park saw Somerset nosedive from 56-1 to 89 all out, with left-armers Kevin Poulter (5-24) and Nick Gargaro (4-8) sending nine wickets crashing for 32 runs.

Hampshire's reply began on a bizarre note when Lymington's Neil Trestrail, who made an unbeaten 121 in the Channel Islands victory, fell to a superb leg-side stumping first ball of the innings – off a wide!

Hampshire wobbled losing four wickets, but were guided home by skipper Chris Wheeler's 34 not out.

Hampshire play the Isle of Wight at Ventnor's Steephill bowl on Wednesday, 1pm.

THURGOOD DISCIPLINED

ONE of the leading batsmen in Southern Premier League history has been hit with a suspended ban for shaking his head after being given out.

It is understood Bashley-Rydal's Neil Thurgood was reported, despite not voicing his dismay having been trapped in front by Lymington's Ed Freeman in an opening-day victory, umpired by John Attridge and Dean Daniels.

The league announced this week that Thurgood, who has scored more than 6,800 runs in 234 matches in the competition, had received a one-match ban, suspended until the end of the season, writes Neil Perrett.

Bashley chairman John Neal politely declined to comment on the nature of the incident but felt the decision to report Thurgood had been "harsh".

He told the Daily Echo: "We understand and respect the league's stance on discipline but my worry is how we differentiate between dissent and disappointment."

"We felt Neil had been more disappointed with being given out rather than showing dissent towards the umpire."

"Literally two balls before, he had been spoken to by his captain and instructed to make sure he stayed there for the next 10 overs and then

suddenly, he was out. I know they are just supposed to walk off but we are all human."

In the same match, Thurgood's team-mate and fellow club stalwart Kevin Nash was punished for swearing at an opponent and would have missed today's trip to Alton, had he not been sidelined with a calf injury.

Nash, the seventh-highest wicket-taker in Southern Premier League history, received a two-match ban, with one game suspended until the end of the season.

Neal revealed the club had also handed Nash a suspended one-week ban, but insisted the veteran had been provoked.

"We all accept that what Kevin did was wrong. It was player-to-player and there was no physical violence on his part, it was words," added Neal.

"He has been on the scene for 25 years without being spoken to. We felt there were two parties involved but the umpires did not see the incident and, as far as we know, the other party has not been punished."

"The league has a hard job to do. We are not against them or our friends at Lymington. It was an unfortunate incident and our only gripe was that only one person got punished."

"In our report, we said that if you take that kind of competitiveness out of the game, it would be difficult to get hard-nosed league cricket."



Neil Thurgood has been given a suspended ban. Picture: Denis Murphy (www.dmsportingimages.com).

Seconds in double T20 win

HAMPSHIRE enjoyed double success against their Sussex counterparts in a Second XI twenty20 fixture on the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground, with free-scoring knocks by Lewis McManus and Joe Weatherley catching the eye.

Match details - Match 1

Sussex 152- 7 (Afriidi 3-21) Hampshire 155-5 with 2 balls to go and win by 5 wks. Gareth Berg 57* (7 fours) off 45 balls; Lewis McManus 40 from 30 balls (2 sixes and 3 fours); Afriidi 32 from 18 balls (2 sixes and 2 fours)

Match 2

Sussex 192-3 (Craig Cachopa 80 (5 sixes and 8 fours) from 46 balls, Harry Finch 64) Hampshire 194-3 in 19.5 overs (Joe Weatherley 92 from 47 balls (7 sixes and 7 fours), Lewis McManus 76* off 51 balls (11 fours). Partnership of 137 in 78 balls.

LOCAL CRICKET

Hambledon stand in Sparsholt's way

IT'S a crunch weekend for Sparsholt as they bid to celebrate the third year of their sponsorship with CALA with success in the Southern Premier League and National Village Cup.

CALA are the 'prime contractor' of the Barton Farm development on the northern outskirts of Winchester and their generous backing of Sparsholt cricket includes having the company name on the club's playing shirts.

Standing in Sparsholt's way of immediate progress are historic Hambledon, unbeaten in Premier Division 2, who visited the Norman Edwards Ground on Saturday, but then host Andy Worth's side in the Village Cup county semi-finals at Ridge Meadow on Sunday.

Sparsholt were beaten in their opening high-scoring league match by Titchborne Park, but bounced back to crush South Wilts II.

Hambledon have won both their opening games against Bashley (Rydal) II and Fawley.

Both clubs were hit by last weekend's wet weather – Sparsholt without a ball being bowled at Calmore Sports, while Hambledon at least managed to get 19 overs of bowling in before rain washed out their home game with Hartley Wintney.



Back (from left): Rich Kenway, Jon Vokes, Stu Tognarelli, Kyle Ruffell, Jeremy Frith. Front: Tom Foster, David Banks, Adam Gough, Andy Worth, Dave Gough, Nick Doubell.

Crunch time for students

Southampton University's cricketers will be putting their textbooks to one side for a spell of three key BUCS Championship matches in four days next week that will shape their promotion prospects.

They began the season well with back-to-back wins over Swansea and Surrey, but wet weather has prevented them from playing since, with Exeter's visit to Southern Gardens among the games called off.

Now comes a spate of games against Bournemouth (at Totton & Eling) tomorrow and a visit to South Wales to play Cardiff Met on Bank Holiday Monday.

On Wednesday, the Wessex students play Oxford at the Parks, a fixture that will unquestionably be the high spot of their season.

Solent, meanwhile, play Oxford's MCCU side at South Wilts on Monday, 12.30.

COMPETITION LOOKS HEALTHY IN BATTLE FOR PREMIER TWO

WITH seven of the ten sides perfectly capable of beating each other, it will take a brave person to forecast the outcome of Southern Premier League Division 2 this season.

Last year, Portsmouth and OTs & Romsey were streets ahead of the rest.

But that doesn't appear the case this time around, with Sparsholt – a popular pre-season tip for the top – already unseated, writes Mike Vimpany.

Going into today's fourth round of matches and after last weekend's across-the-board washout, only three sides – Calmore Sports, Trojans and Hambledon – still boasted unblemished records.

Come close of play today, that number could be significantly reduced, with Calmore and Hambledon facing tough away-day assignments at South Wilts II and Sparsholt, respectively.

Nonetheless, Sparsholt – with former Totton & Eling and Sarisbury Athletic champion captain Dave Banks and Richard Kenway on board, and Jeremy Frith returning from Guernsey – look the most likely to top the log.

Titchborne Park, who beat them on day one, are the side most likely to offer the most serious challenge in a division set to be full of ups and downs.

So, how to the ten runners and riders shape up?

Bashley (Rydal) II: Back-to-back defeats by Trojans and Hambledon

made it an inauspicious start for a Bash side, from which skipper Phil Morris, Neil Taylor and Chris Gates are the only survivors from the 2014 SPL3 title winning team – and Morris missed all of last season! Bashley II were third last year, but with senior players leaving the club and second teamers being promoted from within, they look short on run-making potential and could struggle to retain their Premier 2 status. Simon Ridley's return from a hockey-related broken finger cannot come soon enough.

Calmore Sports: Consecutive wins over Fawley and Hartley Wintney, albeit two of the weaker sides, provided Calmore with the perfect fillip after last year's relegation. Opener Tam Goodrich has begun the season well, but Mark Lavelle will need to lead from the front again in both facets of the game as Calmore's bowling is arguably stronger than their run-scoring potential. Youngsters Ben Johns and Aussie Ben Moss need to come to the party with the bat, otherwise run scoring could be a problem, especially at Loperwood Park.

Fawley: The loss of Tom Gates to Bashley (Rydal) and Wayne Royan's return to Pylewell Park has considerably weakened Fawley, who need to find 500-plus runs and 40 wickets from somewhere. The oilmen have recruited spinner Aashiq Rhode, from Stellenbosch, but having been rolled over for 135 (by Calmore Sports) and 67 at Hambledon, it's the



Danny Plume

batting that is of most concern.

Hambledon: It's been a good start for the Dons, where Will Bond has taken over the captaincy duties from one-time Andover ace Rob Atkins and has started well with the bat. South African Mbulelo Nkomo, who added 15 wickets of leg spin to his 400 runs last season, has returned

from Langa and will play a key role. One-time Hampshire left-arm spinner Ian Turner continues to complement a tidy bowling attack.

Hartley Wintney: are anxious to avoid a second consecutive relegation, but have begun the season poorly with crushing defeats by South Wilts II and Calmore Sports. Danny Plume has succeeded Rowledge-bound Jamie Teale as captain and will need Tasmania twenty20 winner Tommy Garwood to shine. HW are much changed, but showed signs of improvement before the rains came at Hambledon last week. Their major fear is being in the Premier League cellar come 2017.

Paultons: Totally unpredictable, liable to beat or lose to anyone. In skipper Tony Richman and Josh Metcalfe they possess two middle-order batsmen capable of big hitting, but Paultons need their top order to fire and give the likes of spinner Andrew Denney the chance to bowl opposition sides out. They and Trojans are the only SPL2 teams (save the second sides) to go without an overseas player this season.

South Wilts II: A new generation of Bemerton Babes is emerging from the Wilton Road campus and, still fresh from last season's SPL3 title triumph, confidence is high, particularly in the batting department, where Tom Cowley's return is significant. Runs will flow at Bemerton, with Owain Phillips, Rob

Pittman and Ben Draper expected to be prominent. Paul Draper's experience alongside Tom Pearce and the Burton duo will be key in keeping opposition totals down.

Sparsholt: The arrival of Banks and Kenway has given plenty of depth to the batting and Sparsholt will fancy their chances of outscoring most sides. Chasing targets could be trickier, as they found against Titchborne Park. Stu Tognarelli has enormous capabilities of taking attacks apart and give Sparsholt flying starts. Teenager Nick Doubell should learn from the miserly Jeremy Frith, while Kyle Ruffell will look to emulate last season's 27-wicket haul.

Titchborne Park: A lot of this side has been together for years now, with Martin Cheyney and Tom Allam both well versed in SPL2 cricket. Queenslander Justin Reid has returned for a second term and set up the win at Sparsholt. If Park's batsmen fire they could push their Winchester neighbours hard for a promotion place.

Trojans: Ed Boyd has led from the front with two big scores which have helped Trojans win their opening games. They were expected to struggle after last season's promotion drive, but that's not been the case so far. They missed out on a third straight win when the Fawley game was washed out, but another victory at Hartley Wintney today will set things up nicely for next week's Sparsholt showdown.

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

£38,000

or £1,000 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

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FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

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If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
2nd June,
2016
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday,
4th June
or Sunday
5th June
2016

Winners

Competition number S20

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An incident in an Eastleigh v Oxford match

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Daily Echo

Ali and Woakes impress as England push for victory

Declaration made at 498

MOEEN Ali and Chris Woakes gave England the impetus to press hard for Investec Test and series victory at Chester-le-Street.

Moeen had Sri Lanka's faulty catching to thank on his way to a career-best 155 not out in England's 498 for nine declared.

Then by stumps on day two of this second Test, Woakes (three for nine) helped reduce Sri Lanka to a sorry 91 for eight - leaving them highly vulnerable to further telling bursts from a pedigree seam attack if England enforce the follow-on in pursuit of an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Moeen shared a seventh-wicket stand of 92 with Woakes, but both were dropped early on the second morning in what proved a damaging passage of play for the tourists - who might easily have bowled England out for less than 350.

Instead, number seven Moeen motored well beyond three figures - dominating a ninth-wicket partnership of 72 with Steven Finn - to put his team out of sight and give their bowlers licence to attack.

Only Dimuth Karunaratne's wicket fell before tea, bowled round his legs by James Anderson - but in the most benign batting conditions of the match, England then got to work properly.

They still had work to do with the bat at the start of another initially cloudy day, resuming on 310 for six, but Sri Lanka missed two important opportunities - one to see off each overnight batsman.

Moeen had added just eight more to his 28 when he edged Nuwan Pradeep (four for 107) through the hands of Karunaratne at gully.

Then Dinesh Chandimal, struggling with a sore left thumb, did not even get a glove on an obvious chance when Woakes reopened his account by edging for four off the luckless Shaminda Eranga.

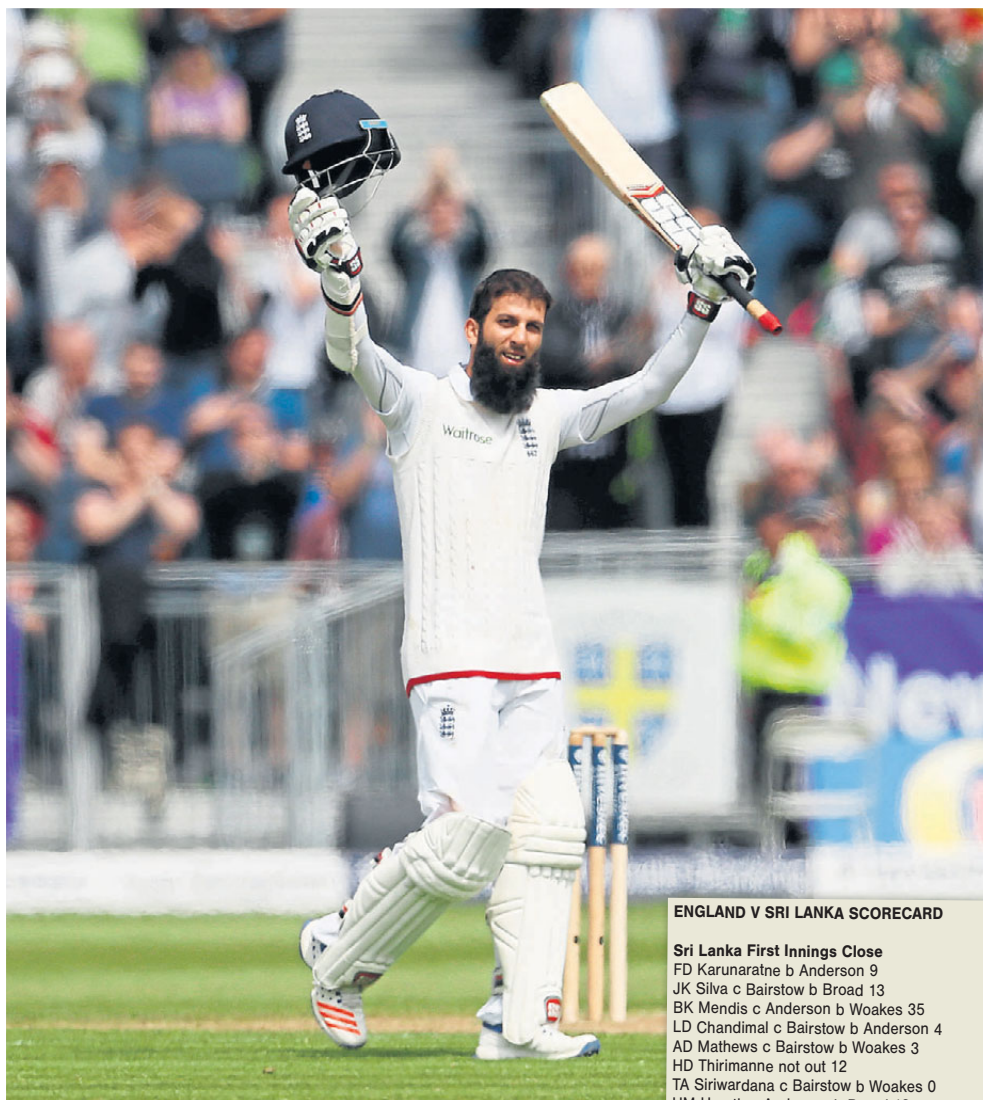
Kusal Mendis replaced Chandimal behind the stumps as the first-choice wicketkeeper decided it was no longer worth risking further injury or costly drops.

There was to be no maiden Test 50 for Woakes, who departed for a career-best 39 when he tried to drive Suranga Lakmal on the up and edged behind.

Stuart Broad was also caught by Mendis to give Pradeep his fourth wicket before lunch - but the match was still getting away from Sri Lanka.

They once again did not help themselves, some curious field-placing employed as they failed to keep Moeen off strike.

His only previous century came against these same opponents but in very different circumstances when he tried in vain to avoid Test and se-



Moeen Ali celebrates his century.

ries defeat at Headingley in 2014.

This time, he had two more escapes, short of his ground on 97 if Rangana Herath had managed a direct hit from mid-off and then - with his hundred secure - badly dropped at keep square-leg by Milinda Siriwardana when he mis-pulled Eranga.

Moeen made Herath pay a personal cost, taking significant toll of the slow left-arm - one of four bowlers to concede more than 100 runs, before he finally too his 300th Test wicket when Finn skied one back caught-and-bowled.

In a cruel hour after lunch for Sri Lanka, Moeen bagged 57 of the 76 runs from 13 overs - and by the time England were done, he had hit 17 fours and two sixes from 207 balls.

From 32 for one at tea, Sri Lanka's slide took hold.

Nick Compton dropped Mendis at midwicket off Broad (three for 35),

but the same bowler almost instantly had Kaushal Silva neatly caught behind by Jonny Bairstow.

Chandimal pushed hard and edged Anderson to slip, and when Woakes struck three times in 13 balls - Angelo Mathews and Siriwardana edging behind, and Mendis fencing to gully in between - five wickets had fallen for 23 runs.

It was an uncanny repeat of Sri Lanka's double capitulation at Headingley last week.

Lahiru Thirimanne and Herath did then keep England at bay for an hour until the latter failed to deal with Broad's extra bounce - and then four balls later, Eranga fell to a brilliant tag combination of James Vince and Joe Root at third and second slip.

● Former Pakistan bowler Saqlain Mushtaq is set to join England as a specialist spin coach during this summer's second Investec Test against his native country in July.

ENGLAND V SRI LANKA SCORECARD

Sri Lanka First Innings Close

FD Karunaratne b Anderson 9
JK Silva c Bairstow b Broad 13
BK Mendis c Anderson b Woakes 35
LD Chandimal c Bairstow b Anderson 4
AD Mathews c Bairstow b Woakes 3
HD Thirimanne not out 12
TA Siriwardana c Bairstow b Woakes 0
HM Herath c Anderson b Broad 12
RM Eranga c Root b Broad 2
RA Lakmal not out 0
Extras lb1 1
Total 8 wks (40 overs) 91
Fall: 1-10 2-44 3-53 4-58 5-67 6-67 7-88 8-90
Bowling: Anderson 11-2-31-2, Broad 11-2-35-3, Woakes 7-4-9-3, Finn 7-3-15-0, M M Ali 4-4-0-0

England First Innings

AN Cook c Karunaratne b Lakmal 15
AD Hales c Mathews b Siriwardana 83
NR Compton c Lakmal b Pradeep 9
JE Root c Silva b Pradeep 80
JM Vince c Thirimanne b Siriwardana 35
JM Bairstow c Chandimal b Pradeep 48
MM Ali not out 155
CR Woakes c Mendis b Lakmal 39
SC Broad c Mendis b Pradeep 7
ST Finn c & b Herath 10
JM Anderson not out 8
Extras b1 lb8 9
Total 9 wks dec (132 overs) 498
Fall: 1-39 2-64 3-160 4-219 5-227 6-297
7-389 8-400 9-472
Bowling: Eranga 27-3-100-0, Lakmal 29-4-115-2, Pradeep 33-5-107-4, Herath 29-1-116-1, Mathews 6-2-16-0, Siriwardana 8-0-35-2

Maiden pole for Ricciardo

DANIEL Ricciardo secured the first pole of his Formula One career with an incredible lap in qualifying for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix.

Championship leader Nico Rosberg will join the Red Bull driver on the front row with his Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton, who has not won at the principality since 2008, only third on the grid.

Ricciardo's emphatic lap marked the first pole position for Red Bull since the 2013 Brazilian Grand Prix.

Hamilton already trails Rosberg by 43 points, and the fraught defence of his championship crown took another dramatic twist after another engine failure prevented the Briton from posting a quick lap until the closing moments of qualifying.

Hamilton emerged for Q3 - the final phase of qualifying - but was told to stop at the end of the pit-lane with a fuel leak issue before his car was recovered by his Mercedes mechanics.

The 31-year-old was back on track with six minutes of the 12-minute phase remaining, and in the closing moments he appeared on course to snatch a dramatic pole from Ricciardo, but a slow final sector means he will start not only behind Ricciardo, but his Mercedes team-mate, too.

With overtaking almost impossible at the narrow street circuit, Hamilton, three-tenths of a second slower than Ricciardo, cut a bleak figure in the post-qualifying press conference.

"It was a difficult qualifying, and I don't know what to say," Hamilton said. "The good thing was that I could get out and do a lap. I will do what I can tomorrow to salvage what I can from today's result. Hopefully it rains."

In contrast, Ricciardo, was thrilled to secure the maiden pole of his career.

"I knew coming into the weekend I had a shot at it," he said Ricciardo. "I think after the last few races, I feel like I have been driving well, but not getting maximum reward. I came in with a lot of confidence."

Ricciardo's young Red Bull team-mate Max Verstappen crashed out of qualifying in dramatic fashion and will start last but one on Sunday.



Daniel Ricciardo.

HULL CITY 1 SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 0

Hull and back – Diame earns Premier return

HULL secured a return to the Premier League with a deserved 1-0 defeat of Sheffield Wednesday in the Championship play-off final at Wembley.

The classiest of finishes from Mohamed Diame was rightly enough to earn promotion at the end of a season which for several reasons had threatened to unravel.

Consistent speculation surrounded the future of manager Steve Bruce, a poor run of form in the second half of the season and concerns surrounding their seriously-ill owner Assem Allam had all threatened their ambitions.

Diame's goal ensured it was Wednesday's hearts which were broken, however, cruelly ending the unlikely of challenges for promotion after a 17-year absence from the top flight and ensuring Hull, with the expected income that comes with reaching the Premier League, can consider themselves £170million richer.

Following a promising start in which free-kicks from Wednesday's Fernando Forestieri and Ross Wallace tested goalkeeper Eldin Jakupovic it was Hull's superior quality which exerted the greater influence.

Tom Huddlestone had already seen a powerful shot saved by Keiren Westwood when, in the 29th minute, Robert Snodgrass curled a left-wing corner to Abel Hernandez, whose header was chested off the line by Kieran Lee when it bounced off Michael Dawson and struck Lee's outstretched hand.

Referee Bobby Madley ignored Dawson's calls for a penalty but if Hull were disheartened, it did not show. First Diame's through-ball put Hernandez through on goal with Westwood from where the Ireland international produced an outstanding save to tip wide.

Then the midfielder ran through Wednesday's defence into space in the area, before from in front of goal sending a left-footed shot against the outside of the left post and out of play.

If observers were not already wondering why a team featuring players of the collective ability of Dawson, Huddlestone, Diame and Snodgrass was ever relegated 12 months ago, they received another reminder of Hull's strength shortly after half-time.

Forestieri had been played through on goal and was closing in on Jakupovic when Curtis Davies showed impressive pace to chase back and time the classiest of slide tackles to clear.

The next chance was again Hull's. From a 53rd-minute corner, Snodgrass crossed to Dawson and the



Hull City's Mohamed Diame celebrates scoring the only goal of the match.



Hull's Curtis Davies (left) and Sheffield Wednesday's Fernando Forestieri battle for the ball.

defender, with both time and space in front of goal, sent another powerful shot towards goal which Westwood again saved.

It was when another fine chance came to nothing that the possibility of Wednesday winning, having resisted significant pressure, seemed to increase. On the counter, Hull right-back Moses Odubajo picked out Andy Robertson from directly

in front of goal, but the Scot instead sent his first-time effort harmlessly clear of the crossbar.

In what to most minds has been a romantic season, however, the fixture widely billed as football's richest was decided by a moment of true quality, demonstrating the obvious advantages money can buy.

Diame, a player with six years' Premier League experience, collected

possession in a routine position in Wednesday's half in the 72nd minute before, from 25 yards, lining up a shot and masterfully curling beyond Westwood into the top-right corner.

The goalkeeper did well to even get his fingertips to the ball, but there was little he could do to stop it and Hull held out to secure their return to the Premier League.

Euro hope for Sakho

LIVERPOOL defender Mamadou Sakho has been handed a Euro 2016 lifeline after UEFA chose not to extend his suspension from football after a positive drugs test.

The France international was provisionally banned for 30 days on April 28 by after being notified by European football's governing body of an anti-doping offence relating to a test taken after March's Europa League quarter-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

However, Press Association Sport understands UEFA have decided not to extend that suspension, which is due to expire on Saturday, as they have launched their own investigation into whether the fat-burning substance the centre-back took should even be on the banned list.

As a result the case against Sakho remains on file pending those investigations but with his suspension lifted he is technically available for selection by national team boss Didier Deschamps, with national teams having until May 31 to submit their final squads for this summer's tournament in France.

Sakho submitted his defence to UEFA's disciplinary committee on Monday and as part of that his legal team questioned whether the substance in the supplement should even be on the prohibited list given some apparent scientific evidence on its effects.

Rather than set a date for a hearing to consider the defender's case UEFA have instead ordered their own disciplinary body to first look into whether the substance should even be on the WADA list.

Liverpool have declined to comment.



Mamadou Sakho.

ISSN 0969-563X



770969 563168

P65p ISSN 0969-563X

Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from the offices at Newspaper House, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 126th year.